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SOMERSETSHIRE

Archæological and Natural History Society.

PROCEEDINGS

DURING THE YEAR

1859.

TAUNTON:
FREDERICK MAY, HIGH STREET.
LONDON: BELL & DALDY, 186, FLEET STREET.

1860.

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The former *Proceedings* of the Society, in Eight volumes, are on Sale at the Publisher's, at 6*s*. 6*d*. each; the volumes may also be had bound in cloth at 1*s*. 6*d*. each extra.

A. S^t. Josephs chappel. B. The Abby Church. C. S^t. Marys chappel. D. Edgars chappel. E. The high Alt

F. *The Claystere.* G. *The Hall.* H. *The Abbots kitchin.* I. *The Abbots Lodging.*

Somersetshire Archæological

and

Natural History Society.

Proceedings

DURING THE YEAR 1859.

VOL. IX.

TAUNTON:
FREDERICK MAY, HIGH-STREET.
LONDON: BELL & DALDY, FLEET-STREET.
MDCCCLX.

The Committee regret that the publication of the present volume has been unavoidably delayed much longer than was intended.

The Members are indebted to F. H. Dickinson, Esq., the President, for the illustrations of Lyte's Cary Manor House; to the Rev. T. Hugo, M.A., for those of the Bulla of Pope Sixtus IV., Knife Handle, Girdle Ornament, and the Seal of Taunton Priory; and to the courtesy of Messrs. Parker for the use of the wood engravings of Meare, and the Turret, &c., of St. Joseph's Chapel, Glastonbury.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,

DURING THE YEAR 1859.

PART I.

THE Eleventh Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Town Hall, Glastonbury, on Monday, August 29, 1859. W. E. SURTEES, Esq., Vice-President, having taken the chair, it was proposed by Mr. SURTEES and seconded by W. A. SANFORD, Esq., and carried unanimously, that F. H. Dickinson, Esq., be the President for the ensuing year.

Mr. DICKINSON, on taking the chair, expressed his high sense of the honour conferred upon him by the members of the Society, and assured them of the lively interest he took in the Society, and in all the objects to which it was devoted.

The Vice-Presidents and other officers of the Society were then re-elected; the Hon. P. P. Bouverie, M.P., and E. A. Sanford, Esq., were added to the list of Vice-Presidents, and Mr. Alford was chosen on the Committee. Mr. Edward Parfitt was elected as Curator.

On the motion of the Rev. F. Warre, seconded by the Rev. W. F. Neville, J. H. Parker, Esq., of Oxford, was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Society.

The Rev. F. Warre, Secretary, read the

ANNUAL REPORT :

"The Committee in this their Eleventh Annual Report have the satisfaction to record that the operations of the Society during the past year, while presenting no new feature of special interest, have continued to further the objects for which the Society was established.

"They would refer to the volume of *Proceedings* recently issued as an indication of the progress which is being made towards collecting materials for a County History, and they feel assured that the periodical issue of these volumes will be the means of creating and sustaining more generally an interest in the objects and pursuits to which the Society is devoted. The outlay, however, which the production of such a volume involves, without any of those special donations from individual members which other societies of a similar nature frequently obtain, necessarily absorbs so large a proportion of the annual income, as to leave a very small balance for carrying out other purposes equally important.

"The Library and Museum of the Society have been enriched during the past year by donations of valuable books and of various objects of interest. Among these they would particularly refer to Stothard's *Monumental Effigies* and Hoare's *Wiltshire*, presented by the Rev. F. Warre. The Committee are anxious to enlarge and improve this department, from a conviction that a good County Museum is one of the best aids towards a good County History.

"Some progress has been made towards a more orderly and systematic arrangement of the varied and valuable collection now belonging to the Society, and it is hoped that during the coming year every department of the Museum will be so arranged as to be made readily available for reference or for study. In connection with these improvements the Committee deem it their duty to acknowledge the valuable help rendered by Mr. Wm. A. Sanford, in the arrangement and classification of the Geological Collection.

"Arrangements have been made, in accordance with a scheme suggested by Mr. Sanford, for systematizing the observations made by members and others in various parts of the county. The details of that scheme have been given in the recent volume of *Proceedings*, and the Committee earnestly solicit the help and co-operation of all who have it in their power, in however small a degree, to contribute to these objects. The Portfolios are ready for the reception and classification of all such notices as may be sent. Donations of Geological and Botanical Specimens from various localities in the county are much needed in order to complete the illustrations which the Museum supplies of the Natural History of the County. In like manner, objects of antiquarian interest, with notices of the locality and circumstances in which they were found, would be much valued as additions to the Archæological portion of the Museum.

"The Committee are likewise engaged in preparing portions of Collinson's *History of Somerset* according to the suggestions of R. W. Falconer, Esq., M.D., of Bath, to be used as the basis of a more complete and correct history of the districts to which the sections respectively relate. When these are completed, with a general outline of the

enquiries most desired, they will be placed in the hands of such members as have the time and the inclination to devote themselves to the work; and it is hoped that the Society may, at no distant period, be able to use collectively the materials thus obtained by the labours and investigations of individual members in the districts with which they are best acquainted.

"During the past year the Committee have provided a fitting case in which to deposit the Pigott collection of Drawings, the cost of which was defrayed in part by local contributions in Taunton and the neighbourhood. Schemes for the publication of this collection, in part or as a whole, submitted to the Committee by some of the Trustees, have been under consideration; but the great outlay which such a scheme would involve, and the inability of the Society to undertake such a responsibility, with other reasons, have caused these plans to remain in abeyance.

"It is with great regret the Committee have to report that on the sudden disappearance of the late Curator it was found that a considerable amount of subscriptions had been collected by him, but not paid in to the Treasurer. The exact amount of the defalcation has not yet been ascertained, but it is partly covered by the value of the collection of objects of Natural History, &c., belonging to him, which remain in the Museum as the property of the Society.

"In conclusion, the Committee desire to express their growing conviction of the usefulness of the Society, and would again urge upon the members, and on the county at large, the claims which the Society has for more general and liberal pecuniary support, and a more active and systematized literary and scientific co-operation."

ROBT. G. BADCOCK, Esq., Treasurer, read the

FINANCIAL STATEMENT:

The Treasurers in account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society.

Dr.	£	s.	d.	Cr.	£	s.	d.
To Balance of former account		9	10	By expenses of VIIIth vol. of *Proceedings*, 1858 ..	114	15	3
„ Subscriptions	208	10	0	„ Coal, candles, gas, &c. ..	2	18	2
„ Donation	10	0		„ Postage and carriage ..	10	15	0
„ Subscriptions	2	10	0	„ Insurance	1	2	6
				„ Stationery, &c.	2	11	11
				„ Commission on collecting Subscriptions	3	10	0
				„ Sundries	10	8	7
				„ Photographic Socy. 1 1			
				„ Palæontological „ 3 3			
				„ British Armorial .. 1 1			
				„ Arundel Socy. 3 yrs. 3 3	8	8	0
				„ Curator's Salary and Assistants	21	9	1
				„ Rent to January, 1859 ..	12	10	0
				„ Collinson's Somerset ..	3	10	0
				„ Ruding's Coinage.. ..	4	4	0
				„ Expenses at Annual Meeting at Bridgwater ..	13	11	6
August 25, 1859.				„ Balance	2	5	10
	£211	19	10		£211	19	10

Examined and found correct, August 27, 1859.

WM. P. PINCHARD,
T. ARTHUR VOULES.

In moving the adoption of the report, the President referred to the plan for the collection of materials for a better History of the County, and strongly recommended that a more full and complete Index to Collinson's *History of Somerset* be compiled, with the view of furthering this object.

Mr. WM. AYSHFORD SANFORD then read an elaborate paper on the Natural History Department of the Museum of the Society, an abstract of which is given in Part II.

The Rev. F. WARRE read a paper communicated by H. N. Sealy, Esq., "On the word 'PIG' as applied to a

cross at Bridgwater and other objects." Having referred to the word "pig" as forming a part of the names of various localities—as in "Pig's hill," a farm near Nether Stowey; "Pig's ditch," four acres of land in Chilton-super-Polden; and in particular, the "Pig cross" at Bridgwater—the writer intimated that this word was really of Danish origin, and might be regarded as one of the remains of Danish occupation in this part of England.

"It is natural to suppose that the Saxons and Danes would leave some impress of their language in the places where they were, for so long a period, the dominant races. The Saxon and the Danish are cognate dialects of the Teutonic language.

"In the Saxon language the name for a girl is "piga," and its diminutive "pigsney" is thus explained in Johnson's dictionary: "pigsney, from piga (Saxon), a girl; a word of endearment to a girl." In Bay's English and Danish dictionary I find: "*pige*, a maid, maiden, girl, lass." In the Danish New Testament now before me, the English version, chap. 9, v. 24: "He said unto them, give place, for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth," is thus rendered in Danish: "the pigen er ikke dod"—the "pigen" is not dead, &c. (Pige becomes pigen, as maid maiden.) In verse 25: "But when the people were put forth he went in and took her by the hand, and the maid arose"—thus rendered in Danish: "the maid arose—da stod pigen op—then the pigen stood up." St. Luke, c. 22, v. 51: "And the father and mother of the maiden"—in Danish: "Og pigens fader og moder;" and "pig's" or "pigens" father and mother. And in verse 56: "But a certain maid saw him"—in Danish: "Men en pige saae ham"—but a pige saw him.

"Oldmixon, a native of Bridgwater, in his history of

England, published in 1730, notices the "Pig Cross" and the "High cross." In his account of the siege of Bridgwater by the Parliamentary forces, anno 1645, he says: "There was no hope of its being relieved, and the resistance the royalists made had more of frenzy in it than courage; when the latter saw Eastover in a blaze they rang the bells for joy, and set fire themselves to several houses in Silver-street, Friar's-street, and at the 'Pig Cross,' which show the effects of it to this day."

"In his account of Monmouth's rebellion he says:— "Anno 1685, the Duke, after he was proclaimed king at Taunton, marched to Bridgwater. He had then with him the greatest number of men that were ever for him together, near 6000 men, tolerably well armed. He was proclaimed at the 'High Cross,' by the Mayor, Alexander Popham, Esq., and his brethren, in his robes of office."

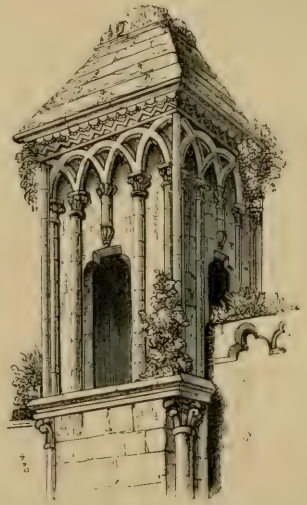
"The High Cross stood on the Cornhill, and was called "the Cross," and was pulled down about 50 years ago. The "Pig Cross" stood at no great distance from it, and nor far from the parish church which is dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and nothing is more probable than that the Cross should be dedicated to the same saint, and distinguished from the other Cross by the name of the "Pig Cross," or as I presume the "Lady Cross." If we associate with the Cross the blessed Virgin Mary, all incongruity vanishes. The "Pig Cross" becomes the "Lady Cross." "Pig's Hill" and "Pig's Ditch" become the "Lady's" farm or field, the revenue having been applied to the maintenance of the "Lady's" chapel, or of the priest who officiated."

The Rev. W. A. Jones, M.A., gave a sketch of the historical evidence and authorities for "the reputed discovery of King Arthur's remains at Glastonbury," which is given in Part II.

Under the guidance of the Rev. F. Warre the company then proceeded to visit the Abbey, the Abbot's Kitchen, Almshouses, Barn, &c.

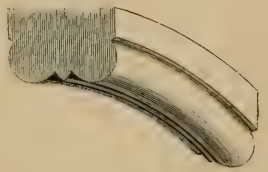
The Rev. F. Warre gave a lecture on the ruins of the Abbey, very much to the same purport as the paper which he published in the *Proceedings* of this Society for 1851. He mentioned the tradition respecting Joseph of Arimathea, but did not attach much importance to it, as he thought there was a want of sufficient evidence of its truth. Another tradition, that St. Paul himself had preached on this spot, he thought more probable, as there is strong reason to believe that he came to Britain, the extreme west of the Roman empire; and there is good reason to believe that at Glastonbury was one of the earliest Christian settlements in England. St. Patrick is said to have retired here with a party of monks about A.D. 533. The popular belief that King Arthur was buried here, whether well founded or not, shews that this was considered the most fitting place. Paulinus, Archbishop of York, is said to have rebuilt the church of timber, covered with lead, in A.D. 630, and King Ina to have again rebuilt it in the most sumptuous manner in 708. This church was destroyed by the northern pirates, and another church and monastery built by St. Dunstan, in A.D. 942—944. By this time, from successive grants, the Abbey had attained great wealth and importance, and was considered the richest foundation in England. St. Dunstan's Church is distinctly recorded to have been of wood plated with gold, which probably means ornamented with gilding, and it is mentioned as of wood in a charter of the time of Edward the Confessor. During the reigns of the first two Norman kings the Abbey was a scene of perpetual strife and slaughter, and no new building seems to have been erected.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHAPEL, GLASTONBURY.



Turret

Ornamental Moulding.



Rib of Crypt.

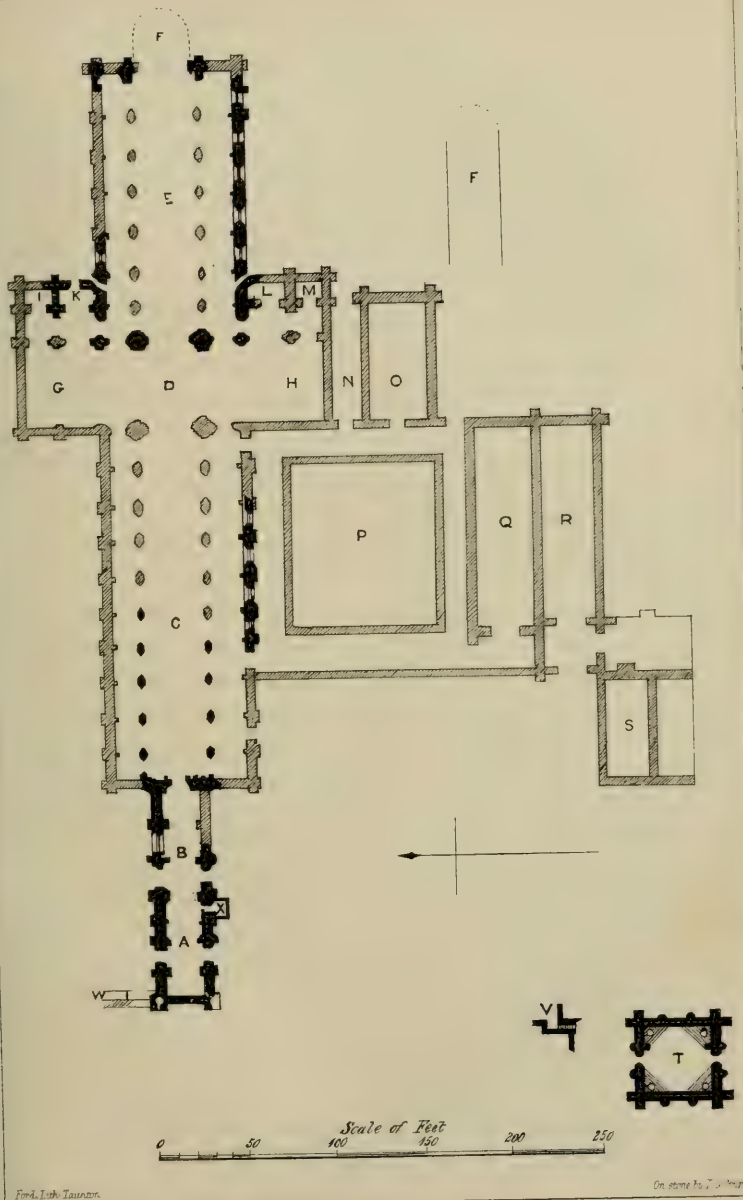
Herlewin, the second Norman abbot, is said by William of Malmesbury to have built a new church, on which he expended the sum of four hundred and eighty pounds, a very large sum in those days; he was abbot from 1102 to 1120. Henry de Blois, who had been abbot only three years when he was promoted to the see of Winchester, but was allowed to hold both, is said to have built a castle, a chapter-house, the cloister, the refectory, the dormitory, the infirmary with its chapel, *the outer gate of hewn stone*, the great brewhouse, and several stables. He held the charge of this Abbey forty-five years, and died in 1171. Mr. Warre was inclined to consider the existing ruins as part of his work, and compared them with St. Cross and other buildings erected by him.

The whole monastery, including the church, was destroyed by a great fire in 1185, which seems to have created a great sensation. King Henry II. immediately sent his chamberlain, Ralph Fitz-Stephen, to examine the ruins, and to take the necessary steps for rebuilding the church and monastery; and so expeditiously was this done, that the new church of St. Mary was dedicated by Reginald, Bishop of Bath, in the following year, on the feast of St. Barnabas, 1186. After this the work was stopped for want of funds, and was not completed until 1193.

The reduced copy of a drawing made by Stukeley, shewing the Abbot's Lodging and the state of the ruins in his time, as given in the present volume, will still further illustrate and explain what remains of the ruins. A ground-plan of the Abbey is likewise given, from Warner; the details of which are as follows:—The dark portions of this plan designate the existing remains; the lighter ones represent such as were visible in Stukeley's time. The letters of reference may be explained as follows: A, St.

Joseph's Chapel; B, the additional building of Henry de Blois; C, the nave of the great church; D, the central point under the tower; E, the choir; F, the site of the retro, or lady's chapel; second F, the same according to its original proportions; G, the north transept; H, the south ditto; I, K, L, M, chapels in the two transepts, their names too uncertain to be correctly given; N, a cloister; O, the chapter-house; P, the area, with cloisters round it; Q, the refectory; R, the guest-hall; S, part of the lord abbot's dwelling; T, the abbot's kitchen; V, part of the almonry; W, a covered passage into the crypt; X, St. Joseph's Well.

Mr. Parker observed that it is very singular that no traces or fragments of the *early* Norman church can be found, nor is there any record of any such having been found. The earliest parts of the buildings that we have remaining are of the very latest Norman and transitional character, such as we might expect to have been built after the great fire, or between 1185 and 1193. He remarked that there is no mention of *a church* having been built by Henry de Blois, while nearly all the other buildings of the Abbey are enumerated, and the gatehouse is particularly specified to have been of hewn stone, which seems to imply that the other buildings were not. He was inclined to think that all these other buildings, therefore, were of wood, and that the church of Herlewin was of the same material. This would account for the entire destruction of the whole by the great fire. The chapel now called St. Joseph's Chapel, he was inclined to identify with the church of St. Mary, dedicated in 1186. There is no trace of any other lady-chapel, and the lady-chapel of the early church at Canterbury was at the west end. It is possible to suppose that by great exertions, under the royal autho-



GROUND PLAN of GLASTONBURY ABBEY
Taken from Warners "History of the Abbey of Glaston."

rity, this chapel may have been built in a year; it is impossible to suppose that the larger church could have been. St. Joseph's Chapel is remarkably complete in itself, all of a piece, built at one time, and a little earlier than the large church, though not much. The crypt is naturally the most ancient part, but it differs from the superstructure only so much as the subterranean part of a building usually does from the upper part, and it has no appearance of having belonged to an earlier building which had been destroyed by fire. Such a destruction usually does leave considerable traces, as at Canterbury. It is just such a church or chapel as would be necessary for carrying on divine service, and would allow time for going on with the large church. The latest portion of the building is the sort of porch which connects the west end of the large church with the east end of St. Joseph's Chapel. This portion is decidedly of Early English character, and according to Mr. Parker's hypothesis, this is just the portion which would naturally be built last. After the chapel had answered its separate purpose, and the whole work had been completed, the east wall of the chapel may have been removed and the whole thrown into one. The accompanying woodcuts illustrate the characteristic features of the architecture of St. Joseph's Chapel.

The chancel-arch of the great church which remains is just sufficient to show what the original design has been, and a beautiful drawing of it, made out from the remains by Mr. Scott, was afterwards exhibited to the meeting. The two eastern bays of the choir are of later character than the rest; the shafts and mouldings of the interior of this part belong to the fourteenth century. A discussion ensued between Mr. Parker, Mr. Freeman, and others, as to whether these two bays had been added, or only altered

in the interior, Mr. Parker maintaining the former opinion, and Mr. Freeman the latter. The windows are exactly the same as those of the older part; Mr. Parker thought that they may have been used again, or copied exactly at a later time. Mr. Freeman thought this out of the question, that it could not have been. At the point of junction between these two bays and the choir, on the exterior of the south side, the buttress is carried on an arch over a sepulchral recess, in a very remarkable manner, as if the person who built this part wished to be buried there.

The party then proceeded to visit the celebrated kitchen, built by Abbot Breynton, in the time of Richard II., where Mr. Parker pointed out that the four tall corner chimneys have been destroyed; the louvre in the centre was for the escape of the steam and effluvia, not of the smoke. They then proceeded to the great barn, of the same period, where the emblems of the four Evangelists in the gable ends were noticed, and the construction of the roof was examined.

Mr. Thomas Serel read a paper on "St. John's Priory, Wells," of which the following is an abstract:—

"The site of this ancient establishment is on the west side of St. John-street, which leads from the city into another street called Southover. The name of the street is, no doubt, derived from its proximity to the Hospital. The ruins of this once venerable house have recently been entirely swept away.

"This Priory, or Hospital as it is more frequently styled in documents of early date, was founded about the year 1206, for a prior, or master, and ten brethren. The prior used a Common Seal, on which was represented the figure of St. John the Baptist, with this legend:—

SIGILL. HOSPITAL. SCI. JOHANNIS. D. WELLES.

"The Priory was dedicated to St. John the Baptist, and owes its foundation to Hugh de Welles, Bishop of Lincoln, and Jocelyne de Welles, Bishop of Bath and Wells, who (as Godwin informs us) 'laying their purses together,' endowed it with considerable possessions, including the parsonage of Evercreech, and lands in Wookey, East Wells, and Southover. Collinson states that Hugh de Welles was the sole founder of the Hospital, and that Jocelyne 'made considerable additions' to the institution. The same author, in his memoir of Bishop Jocelyne, expressly says that the Hospital was the joint foundation of the two brothers (Jocelyne and Hugh). By his will, Bishop Hugh gave the Hospital 500 marks; a most liberal donation at that early period. Some persons have been led to suppose, from the language of this bequest, that the Hospital was in fact built *after* Bishop Hugh's decease, though most of our local historians assume that the establishment was completed in his life-time.

"The two Bishops were natives of Wells, and both men of the greatest eminence, as well as active participators in some of the most important events of the times in which they lived. The names of both appear in Magna Charta, ["Joscelini Bathon. & Glaston. Hugon Linc."*] and both have an historical fame from the part they took in opposition to King John, when that monarch refused to recognise Stephen Langton as Archbishop of Canterbury. To Bishop Jocelyne we owe most of our present Cathedral, including its unequalled West Front.

"Besides the estates before referred to, the Hospital

* Bishop Joceline succeeded to the See in 1206, and took the title of "Bath and Glastonbury," which had been assumed by his predecessor, Savaric. This title he continued to use until 1218, when he relinquished it for the *valuable* consideration of divers rich manors, &c., given up to him by the Abbot of Glastonbury.

had other possessions in Keinton Mandeville, Babcary, Dinder, and other places. Whether these latter additions formed part of the original endowment I cannot say, but it is clear that they were held by the Hospital soon after its foundation. Several benefactors added to its revenues; among them Edmund Lyons, knt., and Bishop Ralph de Salopia, are named. The latter charged his gift with the duty of maintaining a chaplain to say mass at the altar of St. Edmund, in the Cathedral, for his own good estate while living, and for his soul after his death; and also for the soul of John de Somerton, formerly Abbot of Muchelney, and the souls of all his successors in that Convent. According to the Commissioners' Survey of Chantries, &c., made 1 Edw. VI, the charge on the Hospital estates was £4 per annum, and John Dible, clerk, aged 70 years was the last incumbent.

"According to Dugdale, the income of the Priory at the Dissolution was £40 0s. 2¼d., and according to Speed, £41 3s. 6¼d., but neither of these sums must be taken literally, as the real extent of the revenues of the establishment. Collinson and Phelps both give the income as £40 0s. 5d.

"Richard Clarkson was the last Prior, and by him (with three of his brethren), on the 3rd of February, 1539, the Hospital was resigned to the king, in consideration of a pension of £12.

"The act of 27 Henry VIII dissolved and vested in the king all monasteries, priories, &c., having a yearly revenue under £200 a-year. But the Hospital of St. John seems either to have escaped notice, or the prior to have found favour with the king, for it was not surrendered until 1539.

"Soon after the Hospital became vested in the Crown, the site, and possessions belonging to it, were, under a

special licence from the king, granted to the Earl of Southampton, who exchanged the whole with Dr. John Clerk, then Bishop of Bath and Wells, for the manor of Dogmersfield (one of the summer residences of the bishop, which had been granted to the see by Henry I.) subject to a yearly rent to the Crown of £7 5s. The Hospital and its possessions were not fated to continue long in the possession of the Church. In 1548, Bishop Barlow surrendered to the Crown a large portion of the episcopal estates, including this Hospital, with the lands belonging to it, and the rectory and advowson of Evercreech. The Hospital, and the lands attached to it, continued vested in the Crown until 27th January, 1575, when the whole were granted by Queen Elizabeth to Sir Christopher Hatton, but how long they were held by him has not been ascertained.

"Phelps, in his *History of Somerset*, traces the ownership from Sir Christopher Hatton, through Sir William Dodington, the Godwins, Nutleys, and Edwards, and states that the property was purchased of the last-named owner, in 1732, by Peter Davis, Esq., the ancestor of the late owner, John Davis Sherston, Esq. But it is certain that this account is inaccurate. In 1667, Robert Lord Brooke was the owner of the site of the Hospital, and a portion, if not all the estates that appertained to it; but by what means, or at what time he, or his ancestors, obtained the property, is unknown. In 1667, his lordship conveyed the dissolved Hospital and its estates in strict settlement, after his own death, to his son and heir apparent, Francis Greville, with remainder to his brother Fulke Greville. Francis Greville, the son of Lord Brooke, died an infant, unmarried, in the life-time of his father, There were only two daughters, who married respectively the Earls of

Kingston and Manchester, and, under the provisions of their father's settlement, received £15,000 as their portions out of the family estates, which in 1676, by virtue of the entail in the same settlement, on the death of Lord Brooke, descended to Fulke Greville, who became Lord Brooke. This Fulke Lord Brooke died in 1710, and was succeeded by his second son, William. In February, 1721, William mortgaged the Hospital and lands held with it, and in 1722 made a further charge on the property, the entire debt being £10,000. He died 26th July, 1727, and by his will gave his estates to his son Francis, who subsequently became Earl of Warwick, and, after several intermediate dealings with the property comprised in the mortgage of 1721, the whole became released from that mortgage in 1751, and were absolutely vested in the then Lord Warwick, who, about 80 years ago, sold the Hospital and lands then appertaining to it, to the ancestors of the present Mr. Sherston.

"The Hospital itself, as might be expected, underwent many changes and alterations, to suit the convenience and taste of its different possessors. Considerable portions of the original buildings, however, remained until they were finally removed a short time ago to make way for the new schools; other parts were taken down in 1812, when the late Mr. Peter Sherston generously gave a site for building the late central school. A cursory examination of the interior of the building, when in course of being pulled down, showed clear indications that the Hospital had, subsequent to its dissolution, been used as a dwelling-house. New ceilings had been added, which were highly ornamented, and a fireplace made in the best apartment, over which were the arms of James I. in bold relief. Since the old building ceased to be used as dwelling-house, it has

been turned into a manufactory for knit-stockings, and subsequently for the wood portions of brushes.

"In making the necessary excavations for the new schools, old foundations were found extending far beyond the walls shortly before taken down, and below the surface large quantities of freestone were discovered, in confused heaps, at considerable depths, which appeared to have once formed parts of massive arches, door-ways, window-mullions, &c. Besides these, numerous fragments of delicately sculptured stone were turned out, apparently portions of an altar screen, of a most elaborate and elegant description, most of which had been richly gilt and illuminated.

[Many interesting relics were found in the ruins of the Hospital, and a few of them were produced by Mr. Serel. An old spoon turned out from one of the ancient sewers; three keys, found buried in rubbish below the floor of one of the apartments; a leaden bull, or bulla, of Pope Pius VI, in a remarkably perfect state.]

"It is not possible to define the ancient precincts of the Priory, but there is ground for believing that they extended to Bull-lane, adjoining the Railway station. Indeed the field in which the station is built belonged to the Hospital, as did other land to the west of it, including an ancient mill, now held by Mr. S. Fry, which, within the last 60 years, was always known as "Prior's Mill." The Hospital inclosure was intersected by the stream which flows directly from St. Andrew's well, a sure indication that, even at the early date when the Hospital was founded, such an accessory to cleanliness and health was well understood and appreciated.

"Though the old Hospital will soon be swept away and forgotten, its name will be perpetuated to posterity by the

present appellation of the street adjoining its site, which has long been known as "St. John's Street." The site is now occupied by a new building, consisting of schools for imparting a sound religious education to the young of coming generations. For this the inhabitants of Wells have, in the first place, to thank the late owner, Captain Sherston, whose munificence deserves a more public acknowledgment than it has yet received; and in the next place to the committee and subscribers, (among the more active of whom were the Very Rev. the Dean, Vicar of St. Cuthbert's, and his Curates, the Rev. H. E. Ravenhill and the Rev. J. Troutbeck) whose efforts and liberality have combined to rear and complete the new schools, which are intended to serve as models for subsequent structures of a similar nature in this diocese. The foundation stone of these schools was laid July 16th, 1858."

There was an Ordinary in the afternoon, which was well attended, and in the evening the proceedings of the Society were resumed.

The Rev. T. Hugo, M.A., read a paper on "Taunton Priory," which is given in Part II.

Mr. Charles Moore, F.G.S., exhibited a most interesting series of fossils, including fish-bones and mammalian remains, lately discovered by him in Triassic beds which had been formed in fissures in the Carboniferous strata near Frome. He stated that in about three cubic yards of coarse friable sand from this deposit, he had found not fewer than 45,000 teeth of fish—of the genus *Acrodus* alone. Teeth of several species of *Saurichthys* were also abundant, and next to them teeth of *Hybodus*, with occasional spines of the latter genus. Teeth and scales of *Lepidotus*, and scales of *Gyrolepis* were also numerous, as also were teeth showing the presence of several other

genera of fishes. With the above were found a number of curious bodies, each of which was surmounted by a depressed enamelled thorn-like spine, or tooth, in some cases with points as sharp as that of a coarse needle; these Mr. Moore supposed to be spinous scales belonging to several new species of fish allied to the *Squaloraia*, and that to the same genus were to be referred a number of minute hair-like spines, with flattened fluted sides, found in the same deposit. There were also present specimens hitherto supposed to be teeth, and for which Agassiz had created the genus *Ctenoptychius*, but which he was rather disposed to consider, like those previously referred to, to be the outer scales of a fish allied to the *Squaloraia*. It was remarked that as the drift must have been transported from some distance, delicate organisms could scarcely be expected, but, notwithstanding, it contained some most minute fish-jaws and palates, of which, perfect or otherwise, one hundred and thirty examples had been found. These were from the eighth to a quarter of an inch in length, and within this small compass some specimens possessed from thirty to forty teeth. In one palate he had reckoned as many as seventy-four in position, and there were spaces from which sixteen more had disappeared, so that in this tiny specimen there had been ninety teeth.

Of the order Reptilia there were probably eight or nine genera, consisting of detached teeth, scutes, vertebræ, ribs, and articulated bones. Amongst these he had found the flat crushing teeth of *Placodus*, a discovery of interest, for hitherto this reptile had only been found in the Muschelkalk of Germany, a zone of rocks hitherto considered wanting in this country, but which in its fauna was represented by the above reptile.

But by far the most important remains in this deposit

were indications of the existence of Triassic mammalia. Two little teeth of the *Microlestes* had some years before been discovered in Germany, and were the only traces of this high order in beds older than the Stonesfield Slate. Mr. Moore's minute researches had brought to light fifteen molar teeth, either identical with, or nearly allied to, the *Microlestes*, and also five incisor teeth, evidently belonging to more than one species. A very small double-fanged tooth, not unlike the oolitic *Spalacotherium*, proved the presence of another genus, and a fragment of a tooth, consisting of a single fang, with a small part of the crown attached, a third genus, larger in size than the Microlestes. Three vertebræ belonging to an animal smaller than any existing mammal had also been found. He inferred that if twenty-five teeth and vertebræ, belonging to three or four genera of mammalia, were to be found in the space occupied by three cubic yards of earth, that portion of the globe which was then dry land, and whence the material was in part derived, was probably inhabited at that early period by many genera of mammalia, and would serve to encourage a hope that the remains of that class might yet be found in beds of even more remote age.

SECOND DAY.

Excursion.

On Tuesday morning a party of ladies and gentlemen started on an excursion to several places in the neighbourhood. The weather was exceedingly unfavourable, showers being frequent and severe, and the unpropitiousness of the elements prevented many, no doubt, from joining. The more eager archæologists, however, were not to be detained

by any such impediment. They were evidently disposed, under any circumstances, not to let the day pass without seeing some of the objects of interest in the neighbourhood; and accordingly started, at about eleven o'clock in covered conveyances. The result amply repaid them, and in the course of the afternoon the weather assumed a more propitious aspect, although the day terminated as it had commenced—in rain. The party was joined on its progress by a number of archæologists who had accepted the hospitality of F. H. Dickinson, Esq., and R. Neville Grenville, Esq., on the previous evening, and by several of the gentry of the neighbourhood through which it passed.

The first place visited after leaving Glastonbury was STREET; and here several magnificent fossils were shown by Mr. James Clark, taken from the quarries at that place. There were two ichthyosauri, from seven to eight feet in length, in a highly perfect state. The eye of one was remarked to have been exceedingly well preserved; and Mr. Clark pointed out that it was so formed as to be capable of extending its vision, similar to the eyes of birds of prey. These two beautiful specimens belonged to a quarryman named Seymour. There was also an ichthyosaurus in Mr. Clark's own collection, which was found at Ashcott, and a smaller one from the Street quarries. The party was kindly escorted by the Messrs. Clark over their large manufactory of ladies' shoes, mats, &c., and marked the various operations with much interest. The sewing machines, which performed their task with surprising rapidity and neatness, drew particular attention. The mats, which were manufactured from the skins of various animals, from the lion and tiger to the Angola goat and the sheep, were deservedly admired. About 150 persons are engaged in this manufactory, and nearly 1000 are em-

ployed, more or less, by its liberal and spirited proprietors. Proceeding through the village, the quarry was visited, from which several of the saurians in the British Museum, as well as others, have been taken. Mr. Clark mentioned that Dr. Wright, of Cheltenham, found in the quarry, a few days ago, a coral—the *Isastrea Murchisonæ*—and it was remarkable that he had observed the same sort of coral in the Island of Skye, and in Gloucestershire, proving that there was originally a bed of it running through the kingdom. A part of a plesiosaurus and other fossils were shown in a shed belonging to the quarryman.

The excursionists proceeded—through a country highly beautiful from its undulating features of hill and vale, and equally interesting from its geological characteristics, the hills exhibiting in their upper part the white lias formation, with red marl beneath—to COMPTON DUNDON. Here the ruins of a manor-house of the fourteenth century were examined, and the church was visited. Mr. Freeman explained the features of the sacred edifice, characterising it as a very good little typical church, having nothing in it *very* extraordinary, but still a few features that were worthy of note. It seemed to be pretty much of the same date, though there had been a few alterations in the detail of the building. One or two ritual matters were worth noticing. There was a stone screen that was evidently coeval with the chancel arch. It was not at all common to see a stone screen in a parish church; he only knew two or three instances, and he did not remember one of such amazing thickness as the present. Mr. Freeman then proceeded to draw attention to what he conceived to be the curious preparations in connection with the rood-loft, which appeared to have been reached in an extraordinary way. His idea on this matter will best be explained by stating

that the pulpit is inserted in the wall of the church, and approached through an aperture in the wall, leading to the back part of it. This aperture, Mr. Freeman appeared to think, originally communicated with the rood-loft. Mr. Dickinson, however, pointed out that there were indications of an opening having existed near the chancel-arch, which had probably answered this purpose. A small window in the eastern part of the nave on the south side, Mr. Freeman said, corresponded with those that were usually found lighting the rood-loft, where the church had no clerestory. The roof of the church was of a description very common in this part of England, and also in South-Wales—the coved. It was a kind of roof that all modern architects and restorers abominated ; and, if the church should be restored, no doubt something brought down from the north would be substituted for it. He had had the satisfaction of preserving roofs of that kind in one or two instances ; and thought it to be one of the best descriptions, although, where it was ceiled over, as had been the common practice with old fashioned church-wardens, and where there were not projecting ribs, it did not, of course, look well.

The cavalcade next halted at SOMERTON. The road afforded very beautiful and extensive views, reaching to Ham-hill, and the Wellington Monument. It passes by Compton beacon, on the summit of which a Roman encampment was pointed out. The church at Somerton was inspected, and elicited general admiration. The magnificent carved oak roof was spoken of in the highest terms. Mr. Freeman explained the characteristics of the sacred building. Here, he said, was a church of another Somersetshire type, and with a much larger and more complicated ground-plan than that last visited. It was a quasi-

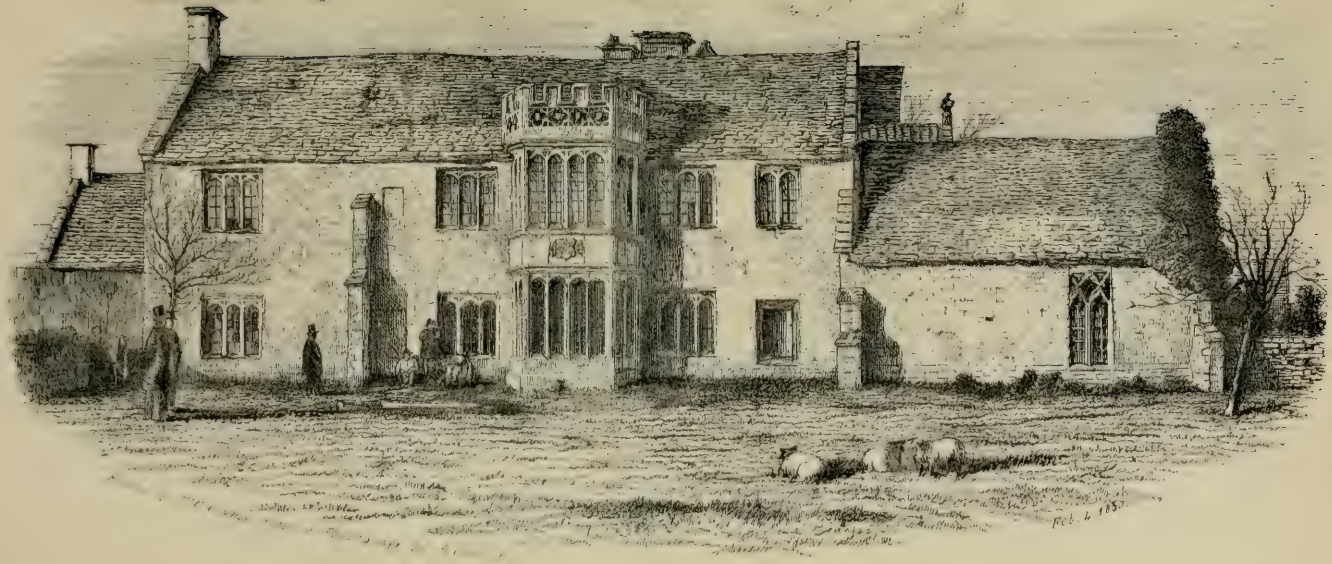
cruciform church. It had not four arches and a central tower, like those of a fully developed cruciform shape, and yet the transepts were very fine, and really superior to some that were of a more fully developed character. One of the transepts went into the tower, and only one. At Exeter Cathedral, and at Ottery St. Mary Church, and a few other large buildings, there were two side towers; but here, and in one or two other Somerset churches, such as that of Stoke-sub-Hamdon, there was only a tower over one transept. The tower was well worth noticing, from being a Somersetshire octagon. The octagon was a very common form in Somerset, and also in Northamptonshire; but the towers of this character were of two kinds; in Northampton the octagon was a mere top to the square part; in Somerset the square part was merely a base for the octagon, which, therefore, gave a character to the whole structure. He only knew of one or two instances where the tower was octagonal from the base. The tower appeared to have received an addition subsequent to its first erection. The same thing was very conspicuous at Stoke St. Gregory. There a much larger nave was built, which quite out-topped the old tower, which was therefore raised. The addition was not so apparent in the present instance; but still it was quite palpable. The church was in the Decorated style of the fourteenth century, with Perpendicular alterations. One of these consisted in the addition of the tower which he had just spoken of; and another was the very fine carved oak roof. This was a kind of roof often found in Somersetshire churches where there was a clerestory; and where there was no clerestory the coved roof was generally found. It was a roof of which he was exceedingly fond, especially when it was so magnificent as in the present instance. There was also a

very splendid example of it at Martock. The most curious alteration made in Perpendicular times was found in the chancel, which was rebuilt, and, for some cause or other, made much narrower than the old chancel. This was shewn by the width of the chancel-arch, a part of which could be seen outside. It was, however, a very nice chancel, and the east window was a good specimen of the local Perpendicular. The appearance of it was spoiled by the blue glass placed around the mullions and tracery ; but if the eyes were fixed upon the tracery, it would be seen that it was a beautiful example of the Perpendicular period, and also had a form that was not often met with except in Somerset, where there was one complete pattern, filled in with another pattern. The roof of the chancel seemed to be a plaster imitation of the wooden roof of the nave. There appeared to have been also a great deal done in the seventeenth century, including the very fine pulpit. There was, he understood, a new west window—what kind of one there formerly was he could not say. Mr. Pinney remarked that the window was very bad before. Mr. Parker then called attention to the tie-beams, which formed a highly ornamental portion of the roof. These beams were now, as much as possible, done away with, because the builders did not know how to make them ornamental ; but in this case they had succeeded in making them a highly attractive feature of the church. Mr. Pinney said there was a tradition that the roof was brought from Muchelney Abbey. Mr. Freeman said there were traditions of the same kind in many places, and there was not much reliance to be placed on them. Mr. Parker pointed out that the carved oak did not form the actual roof, but was an ornamental ceiling. The notion that it was necessary to shew the inside of the slate or tile was altogether modern ; and

it was formerly a very frequent course to have a plain outer roof to support the actual covering, and an ornamental wooden ceiling within.

In the course of examining the church a conversation originated on the subject of subterranean passages, and Mr. Parker said it might be useful to mention that what were called subterranean passages were generally, in point of fact, *drains*. There was often a passage leading from a castle for a short distance to a postern gate, but anything like one of a mile in length was unknown in the middle ages. The drains were very perfectly constructed. Mr. Jones reminded the members of the subterranean passage which was said to exist at Stogursey, connecting the castle with the church, and which, at the last annual meeting, was found to be a well-constructed drain, through which a considerable stream of water was flowing at the time. Mr. Dickinson remarked that probably they were made in imitation of the large drains of Italy.

The next place visited was Lyte's Cary, where a beautiful piece of ancient domestic architecture, formerly occupied as a mansion by the Lyte family, but now the property of F. H. Dickinson, Esq., engaged attention. Mr. Parker said it was one of the best and most perfect buildings of the period remaining. The house was rebuilt in the time of Henry VIII., but the chapel was of the period of Edward III., and must have originally communicated internally with the mansion. He drew attention to the finials of the gables, bearing crests of the Lyte family, and to a very beautiful oriel window. The domestic architecture of the time, he said, did not differ very materially from that of an earlier date; but, as the habits of the people changed, and the hall became less used for general purposes than before, the private rooms became of



more importance, and dining and drawing-rooms were introduced, so that the family could retire, when they wished to do so, to their private apartments. The chapel, which is a beautiful example of architecture, was examined with evident interest, and the company also went through the hall (now used as a cider cellar), in which an original fireplace of the time of Henry VIII. was observed. The drawing and dining-rooms were equally, or perhaps more carefully noticed, Mr. Parker pointing out the chief peculiarities. The ceiling of the latter is in a highly perfect state, and of a remarkably fine description. The letters J. E. and L. H., appearing on one of the fronts, were shewn by the arms to be the initials of the Christian and surnames respectively of John Lyte and Elizabeth Horsey. A portion of the house is now occupied as a farm-house by Mr. Withy. Two plates of this interesting Manor House are given in the present volume, presented by F. H. Dickinson, Esq., from whom the Secretaries have also received the following notice of the place and the family of Lyte:—

"8, Upper Harley Street, March 24, 1860.

"My dear Mr. Jones,

"I am sorry I can give but an imperfect account of Lyte's Cary. The title deeds—almost the only means of information I have, besides the county histories—are at the Bankers, and I do not like to trouble my trustees just now by asking for them. They do not, so far as I remember, disclose much, merely the gradual squeezing out of the Lyte family by successive mortgages in the middle of the last century, when it is my impression that the property passed to the Lockyers, who were the patrons of the borough of Ilchester, and from them to my father or grandfather, about the beginning of this century.

"I find, however, in a recital of a deed concerning Tuck's Cary, which I conceive to be what is marked in the Ordnance Map as Cook's Cary, that it is stated to have been the inheritance of Henry Lyte, Esq., of Lyte's Cary, afterwards of Thomas Lyte, gentleman, and of Thomas Cooke, Esq., of the same place, and from them it passed to Thomas Freke and John Freke Willes, soon after whose death, in 1799, this part of the property was bought by my grandfather. Upon it, skirting the river Cary, which gave its name to the Manor, is a long trench, which I conceive to be the remains of fish ponds. The dam for supplying these ponds with water may have been at the bridge where the road crosses to Kingsdon.

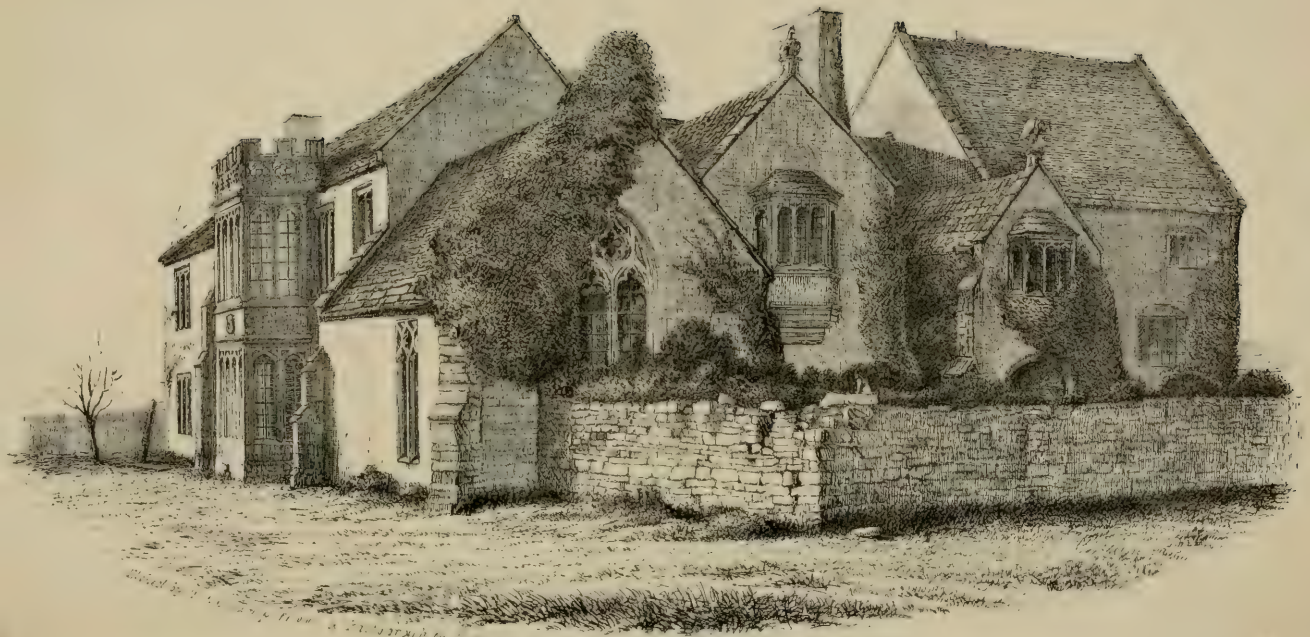
"There is said to have been a botanic garden at Lyte's Cary in Elizabeth's time, but I have not been able to make out from my tenant whether any peculiar plants remain so as to guess the site.

"I give here the title of a work on botany, published by one of the family :—

"'A niewe Herball or historie of plantes wherein is contayned the whole discourse and perfect description of all sorts of Herbs and Plantes, their divers and sundry Kindes; their strange Figures, Fashions, and Shapes; their Names, Natures, Operations, and Vertues; and that not onely of those whiche are here growing in this our Countrie of Englande, but of all others also of forayne Realmes, commonly used in Physicke. First set foorth in the Doutche or Almaigne tongue, by that learned D. Rembert Dodoens, Physition to the Emperour; and nowe first translated out of French into English by Henry Lyte Esquyer. At London by me Gerard Dewes, dwelling in Paules Churchyarde, at the sign of the Swanne. 1578.'

"There are other editions of 1586, 1595, and 1619. I do

BRITISH
MUSEUM
NATURAL HISTORY



LYTES CARY MANOR HOUSE — EAST FRONT.

Ford Printer Taunton

not find in the dedications and verses, Latin and English, in praise of the author, anything which shows him to have had any botanical garden of his own.

"I have seen in the Bishop's Register at Wells, an institution to a chapelry at Lyte's Cary, but whether this refers to the chapel attached to the house or to the north transept of the parish church I do not know. That transept belonged to Lyte's Cary, but so far as my memory serves, was reserved when the property was sold. It became the property of Mr. Shute, the south transept having been also his and mine jointly.

"The Lyte family have certainly been seated at Lyte's Cary from very early times. I have seen the name repeatedly in early deeds concerning an almshouse at Ilchester. The tradition in the neighbourhood is that they came in with William the Conqueror, and that the name is indicative of their being blacksmiths; certainly if this had been exactly true, their name would have been French, not English.

"There is a little book in the British Museum 'Of Decimal Arithmetic by Henry Lyte, gentleman, 1619,' and a reprint of 'The light of Britayne, 1588.' It is a quaint book, in which every English place is made out to be named after something of classical celebrity, and he by no means forgets his own home: 'The famous ryver of Mœander is in Caria. This Mœander ryver had golden sands and singing swannes that sometime served Venus, queene of Phrygia and Caria, wherefore the swannes of Caria, and signettes of Troy in Britayne, must alwaies singe of Troy and the Troyans.' And again: 'Brute of Albania, the founder of Britayne, who brought in Carius a noble Prince of Lydia and Caria, with the people of Carie, and swans of Carie, into Britayne. By the oracles aforesaid the swans of Carie

in Britayne are now stirred up to maintain the veritie of the British historie.'

"The author seems to have spelt his name indifferently —Lyte and Lite; but the place always Lytes-carie.

"The swans of course are in allusion to the family arms, which remain on the house, and are given on a large wood cut to back the title page of the first edition of his work on botany. A chevron between three swans,* with a swan for a crest standing on a trumpet. 'Lætitia et spe immortalitalis' is written below, which may probably be the motto. Above is written, in allusion to the arms :—

Tortilis hic lituus niveusque olor arguit in te
Leite animum niveum pictus † et intrepidum,

and below :

Like as the swanne doth chaunt his tunes in signe of ioyfull mynde,
So Lyte by learning shewes him selfe to Prince and countrie kinde.

"There are lots of other conceits in Latin and English on a name so provocative of puns. I am sorry to have to add, for the honour of English printing, that this handsome book, which is full of curious woodcuts of plants, was printed at Antwerp.

"I am sorry I cannot give you any better account of Lyte's Cary to accompany the south and south-east views of the house which will appear in our journal, which may serve at least to remind some of the members of the society of the pleasant day we spent there last year.

"Believe me, yours very truly,

"F. H. Dickinson."

* Edmondson gives—gules, a chevron between 3 swans argent. Crest, a demi swan argent, with wings expanded gules, against a plume of 3 feathers, the middle one of the first, the other two of the second.

† What does this mean ?

Leaving this interesting spot, the next place marked down on the programme was CHARLTON MACKRELL; but as the hour was getting late, the party did not alight. In passing by, the grounds of Courthay were pointed out, for some time the residence of General Whitelock.

The excursionists next reached KINGWESTON, where, although there was not much of an archæological character awaiting their inspection, the very beautiful grounds and handsome mansion of F. H. Dickinson, Esq., and the elegant church which has been erected through the munificence of that gentleman, drew forth a warmth of commendation which shewed that, although archæologists are chiefly distinguished by their admiration of the antique, they are not insensible to beauty wherever it is found. Added to the attractions of the spot, a magnificent repast was provided by the worthy proprietor, to which the company were invited. The kindness of Mr. Dickinson and his lady was fully appreciated. While at Kingweston, Mr. Mayhew exhibited a series of elaborate plans and drawings, by Mr. Gilbert Scott, architect, representing Glastonbury Abbey Church as it originally stood.

The next place visited was BUTLEIGH, where the church, which has recently undergone restoration, and is now being enlarged, was examined, under the direction of the vicar, the Rev. F. Neville. The edifice was stated by Mr. Parker to have been originally a long and narrow church, with a tower in the centre, of the fourteenth century, (temp. Edward III.) A chapel was added by the late Lord Glastonbury, and subsequently the church was enlarged by the addition of transepts, in exact imitation of the old style. The west window was of the time of Henry VII. The chancel was restored by the late Dean of Windsor in a most tasteful and admirable manner. The

expense of the transepts was borne by the family. The company were invited to go through the noble mansion of R. Neville Grenville, Esq., and readily availed themselves of the opportunity, the esteemed proprietor most kindly exhibiting the many objects of interest and value in the library and among the miniatures and paintings, &c., with which the mansion is adorned.

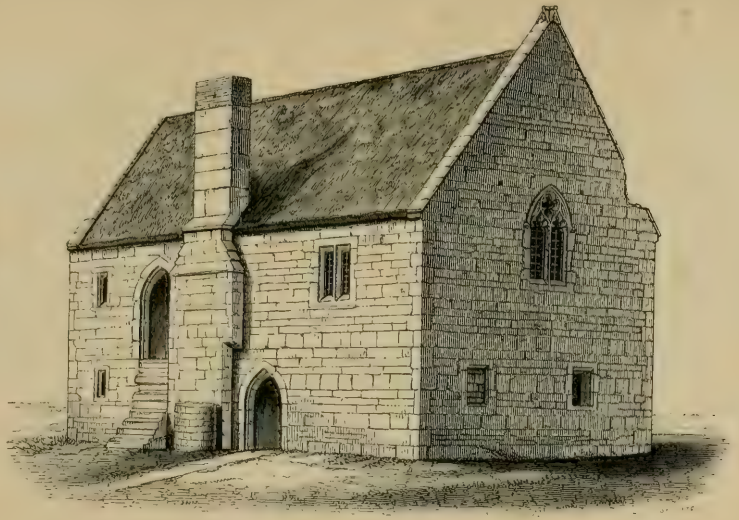
The programme included also visits to Baltonsborough, West Pennard, and Ponter's Ball, and several of the gentlemen present were anxious to see the earthworks at the latter spot, but it was found to be impracticable. These works, in common with all the others of importance in the county, have been carefully examined by the Rev. F. Warre, who gave an interesting account of the works at Ponter's Ball, and round Glastonbury Tor, and elsewhere, which is printed in Part II.

THIRD DAY.

Excursion.

On Wednesday morning another excursion was taken, and opened under somewhat more favourable auspices. There were several showers during the day, but the rain was not so heavy, and gleams of sunshine were more frequent. The route included Meare, Wedmore, Cheddar, and Rodney Stoke.

At MEARE the first object of interest was the "Porter's Lodge," supposed to have been so called from its proximity to the ancient country residence of the Abbots of Glastonbury. The "Fish House" was then visited. The party were here overtaken by rain; but their spirits were by no means damped, as was shewn by the remark of the Rev.

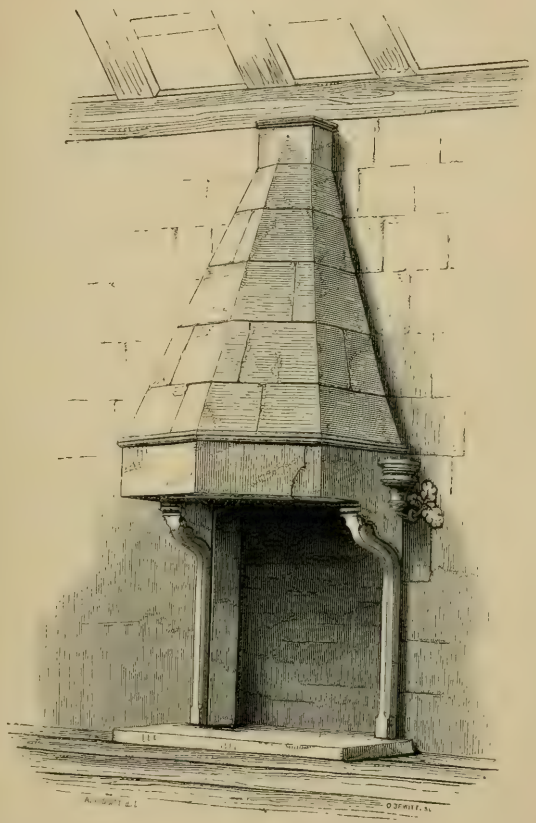


The Fish House, Meare.

NATURAL HISTORY

Abbot's House, Meare, North-east View.

Window in the Hall, Meare.



Fire-place in the Hall, Meare.

F. Warre—that water was highly appropriate to the fish-house, although they were not quite fish enough to appreciate it. The Rev. F. W. White read an extract from Mr. Parker's work, on *The Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages*, describing the building, from which it appeared that it was the residence of the head fisherman of the Abbots. This account was supplemented by some further remarks from Mr. Parker himself, who assigned the date to the reign of Edward III. Mr. Dickinson said that Mr. Gabriel Poole had furnished him with maps which gave the boundary and size of the Abbot's pool or "meare." It appeared to have occupied a space of about 500 acres. The Rev. Mr. White observed that it was five miles round, and that there were also three small pools in which fish were placed to be preserved for the use of the Abbot. Mr. Parker drew attention to the square-headed windows in the building, which, he said, were clearly those of the fourteenth century. It was generally supposed that all square-headed windows were late, but it was quite a mistake. The "Abbot's House," which was formerly their country residence, was then examined. It is now occupied as a farm-house by Mr. N. Look, and the company had the opportunity both of admiring the many beauties of ancient architecture it contains, and witnessing the modern process of manufacturing the celebrated cheese of the locality. The banqueting hall, now used as a store-room for cheese, is very spacious. Mr. Parker said that the position of the room, in one wing of the building, was unusual. There was an external doorway which formed the lord's entrance, the servants' entrance being on the other end, from towards the centre of the building. Where the ruins of a house were remaining, it was well to remember that the principal rooms were often on the first floor,

and the apartments beneath were commonly used merely as cellars or store-rooms. It was usual with our ancestors to build their houses, so to speak, upon vaults. These were now called ambulatories, cloisters, and other names; but the fact was they were used for whatever purpose they were required. This was a remarkably fine hall, if it might be called a hall; from the peculiarity of its position it was usually termed the banqueting room instead. It was, however, one of the finest rooms of the kind he knew.

By the courtesy of Messrs. Parker the committee are enabled to enrich the present volume with the following illustrations of Meare, from *Domestic Architecture of the 14th Century*, viz. :—Abbot's House, N.E. view; Window in the Hall; Fire-place in the Hall; the Fish House.

The Church at Meare next formed the subject of attention. It contains a fine stone pulpit, which has recently been scraped. The roof of the nave has been restored, and is highly beautiful. Mr. White stated it to be an exact imitation of the former roof. There is also an old oaken roof in the chancel. The roof of the south aisle has been replaced by a plain one. Mr. White explained that the parish, having raised £700 or £800, had been unable to put up a good roof to that part; but he hoped to be able eventually to effect an entire restoration of the church. A very curious old alms-box was noticed, resting on a handsomely carved pedestal. There is a painting representing the Descent from the Cross. Mr. White said that it was probably 200 years old; but about 30 years ago it was daubed over by some artist, and spoiled. Mr. Parker then gave a description of the church. The chancel and porch appeared, he said, to be about the same date, and he should suppose them to be of the fourteenth century. He was informed by the vicar that they were

probably about the year 1300; but he should not have thought them so early. The chancel roof was remarkably nice, and the beauty of the part over the altar was in accordance with the custom of decorating that part more richly than the rest. The nave and aisles, and the chancel-arch, which appeared to belong to the nave, seemed to have been rebuilt late in the fifteenth century, probably in the time of Henry VII. The pulpit also was of the same work. The roof of the nave, he thought, had been very creditably restored. The iron-work of the door was very remarkable, and was of the fourteenth century. The pedestal of the poor-box, which was very beautifully carved, probably formed a portion of the screen, and was made use of for its present purpose after the Reformation. The tower arch was hidden by the gallery, and he could not say much about it. Mr. Freeman said that he would supplement Mr. Parker's facts by a little criticism. There were bad architects in the fourteenth century as well as now. If the chancel was examined minutely, it would be seen that it was a freak, and had many faults in it. If a modern architect were to bring him such a chancel, he should call him all sorts of names. The tracery of the east window was a corrupt imitation of one of the very prettiest forms we had, and which was found in perfection in St. Mary Redcliffe and one or two other churches—it was that which we should term the spheric square. The architect appeared to have got hold of some form of the sort, but he evidently did not appreciate the beauty. He made a spheric square (if that was the correct mathematical term) but made it much too flat, as if some one had sat upon it, and then he threw up a perpendicular mullion into it, producing a most peculiar form. One window was of exceedingly beautiful design, but it was almost spoiled by being

made too large. The south windows of the chancel were also freaks. It was not a good design, to put a little bit of Perpendicular tracery upon the top of a Decorated quatrefoil as had been done, but it was perhaps a sign that the first rudiments of the Perpendicular style were coming in. In the hall they had just seen there was an example of good architecture, and in that chancel of bad architecture of about the same date. The nave was decidedly of a local character, but poor, and there was a great weakness about the whole. The angel corbels were very beautiful in some churches, but the architect had contrived in this to make them very ugly. The west window was much superior, and those of the belfry were curious. They were Decorated, and had a triangle in the head instead of a circle. The roof of the chancel was a very nice one, but still rather a freak, and more like that of a hall than of a church. Mr. Dickinson pointed attention to several marks on the chancel arch, as if bars had rested there, and enquired if they probably had any connection with the rood-loft? Mr. Parker explained that it was a common practice at the time of the Reformation, to fill up the chancel-arch with lath and plaster; and the marks appeared to indicate that this had been done in the present case. The arch itself was very late, and he could not suppose that a rood-loft had been attached to it after it was built. He once met with one of these timber partition-screens, separating the nave from the chancel, with the two tables (or oak slabs) of the Commandments in ornamental letters carved in the wood, of the time of Queen Elizabeth. The fact of their having been so used clearly shewed that the Reformers, when they mentioned the east end of the church, meant the east end of the nave, and not of the chancel. The custom in their time was to place the communion-table in that

part, but it was subsequently removed to the chancel, which was its proper place. In examining the sacred building, the Rev. F. Warre observed a chest containing some ancient armour. The Vicar explained that anciently, Meare sent fifteen armed men to assist the Abbots of Glastonbury, and the chest contained pieces of their armour.

At this part of the proceedings, Mr. Parker was obliged to leave, and Mr. Dickinson, in the name of the Society, thanked him for his attendance, and the valuable information he had rendered.

At WEDMORE, the Rev. F. Warre conducted the excursionists to a farm, in the occupation of Mrs. Hawkins, where there are two remarkable effigies, used as gate-posts. Mr. Warre observed that there was a difficulty in assigning their date. The work appeared to be that of the fourteenth century, but the armour was similar to that of the early part of the fifteenth, about the commencement of the wars of the Roses. The Rev. T. Hugo thought they were not at all later than the fourteenth century. The local tradition was stated to be that the figures represented Adam and Eve, but unfortunately for this idea, the supposed figure of Eve appeared to have been arrayed in coat armour.

The Church of Wedmore was thrown open by the Rev. Mr. Kempthorne. It is a large building, and in some respects was admired by the archæologists, though Mr. Freeman gave a verdict the reverse of approval. It contains a splendid piece of old roofing, illuminated with figures of angels. Mr. Freeman, in giving a description of the exterior, said that it was a cross church, with a central tower; but there were two or three additions to the ground-plan, which made it somewhat complicated. The porch grew into a sort of tower, as was seen on a still

greater scale at Bruton, and at the east of it there was added a large chapel, which threw the transept into insignificance. The church was in the Perpendicular style; but it was not a good specimen, and there was only one of those elegant windows which were found in so many churches in the county. There was also an awkwardness in putting together the several parts. Those who knew Yatton Church would remember what a splendid composition the front was, but here there was nothing of the sort; the tower was rather lofty and slender, but poorly finished, and instead of a beautiful open parapet at the top, there was one not pierced but merely panelled. Mr. Freeman gave also a description of the interior of the church, but not before many of the company had expressed an opinion, notwithstanding the severity of his strictures, that the effect externally was good. He said that originally there appeared to have been a cross church, of the period of the transition from Norman to Early English. That was a much smaller building than the present, as was shewn by the four lantern arches, which were not in the least adapted to the proportions of the present church. The doorway (which was highly ornamented) might be later, but he did not know that it was necessarily so, as it was by no means an uncommon practice, where a church was very plain, to concentrate all the ornament on one feature, which was very often the south doorway. There was a very good reason for selecting this part, because it was one that could be contemplated by itself, whereas, if one or two pillars or arches were decorated more than the others, the whole building would appear inharmonious. Then, the greater part of the church was reconstructed in Perpendicular times. There must also have been something done intermediately, as there was one singularly

beautiful window of the Early Decorated period, which shewed that an aisle or chapel must have been introduced towards the end of the thirteenth century. The Perpendicular reconstruction could hardly be all of one time, as there were considerable differences of detail. The work was, on the whole, very poor. The lofty pillars and arches, with no clerestory, looked poor in comparison with those at Wrington, Martock, and other grand examples in the county. Still it was essentially Somerset work. There was the characteristic round capital, with foliage, it being a peculiarity of the Somersetshire Perpendicular that it retained many of the beauties of the earlier style, with its own peculiar magnificence. The chapel on the south side had, instead of pillars, two small pieces of wall moulded on each side, which was by no means an elegant form. There were some good pieces of wooden roofing in the chancel of the church. Mr. Dickinson said that unless there were very strong reasons, he should doubt whether the original church was a small one. The peculiar lowness of the arches which supported the tower might have been designed in consequence of their having to bear its weight. Mr. Freeman said he thought the church must have been originally both lower and shorter than at present. He then drew attention to the very beautiful piece of wooden roof, with figures of angels, and verses of the *Te Deum*, to which we have already alluded, and to some fan-tracery over the lantern. He also explained, in support of the opinion he had advanced in reference to the church having been heightened, that one great object with the architects previous to the Reformation, was to enable the congregation to see the high altar, with which, in the present state of the church, the low arches would interfere. This elicited an interesting discussion, and it appeared that in collegiate

churches there was sometimes one altar for the monks and another for the congregation; there were also altars at the ends of the aisles. Mr. Freeman related a curious circumstance in connection with the church at Dunster. The monks and the people quarrelled, and the monks refused to allow the parishioners to use their high altar in the chancel. The church was therefore divided, the inhabitants had a chancel and choir formed out of a part of the nave, and an altar erected, and two separate services were conducted.

The Church at CHEDDAR was the next sacred edifice visited, and some portions of it were greatly admired. The Rev. R. Beadon, the Vicar, received the excursionists. The edifice is large and handsome, and the tower noble and well proportioned. There is a splendid stone pulpit, painted in polychrome. A southern chapel bore evidence of having been exceedingly rich, the windows in it being remarkably fine. The initials, J. S., observed here, and which also appeared at Meare, were supposed to be those of John Selwood, Abbot of Glastonbury. It was ascertained by the Rev. T. Hugo that the walls of this chapel were originally painted. A curious piece of stonework, supposed to have formed part of a tomb, and a boss, apparently of great antiquity, were noticed. Mr. Freeman explained the peculiarities of the church, prefacing his description by saying that as he had not seen it for thirteen years before, there was some difficulty in the task, but he would endeavour to avoid mistakes. The work was of several dates. There was some Early English, as shewn by a piscina, of great beauty. There was also some Decorated work. His chief difficulty was in deciding whether the clerestory windows were contemporary with the pillars and arches. They were a sort of transition between the Decorated and Perpendicular styles. There

were several things in the architecture very well worth study. Some one had mentioned that it was once a cross church, but he saw no evidence of that. Like many other churches in the county, the chancel was not worthy of the rest of the building. The Perpendicular work, though the style was not fully developed, was singularly good, and the parapets and windows were some of the best work in the county. There had been a chapel added at the east of the porch, which had one or two singularities. That such a chapel should be rich was not at all uncommon; but its richness was well worth studying. The windows were curious: there were two graceful windows set under a square head, which was pierced, so as to constitute one square-headed window. The oak roof of the nave was similar to that usually found where there was a clerestory; and the part over the rood-loft as was very frequently the case, was more highly ornamented than the rest. The roof of the chancel was coved. The church was very rich in its fittings—in its open carved seats, and stone pulpit; the latter appeared to have been found too small, and was enlarged by the addition of some wood-work. The tower was an example of what he called the Taunton type, and had a turret near its corner. It was very well proportioned. The Rev. T. Hugo remarked that the chapel evidently had formerly a fan-tracery roof, and one of the bosses was there on the floor.

Leaving the sacred building, the party proceeded to see the Cliffs, so celebrated for their grandeur. They occur, as our readers are aware, in a chasm of the Mendip range. The rocks, which are of mountain limestone, reach, in some instances, from 350 to 370 feet in perpendicular height, and are as remarkable for a romantic variety of form as for their stupendous character. The cliffs contain also speci-

mens of rare plants, and are therefore well calculated to interest the botanist. The following were found by Mr. Babington, and the Rev. T. Hugo : Polypodium calcareum, Cystopteris fragilis, Thalutrum minus, and Dianthus cœsius.

At Cheddar a cold collation was furnished by Mr. Cox, at the close of which Mr. Dickinson, the President, expressed his gratification at the success which had attended the meeting, and conveyed the thanks of the Society to Mr. Freeman, who had very much contributed to the interest of the proceedings, and whom he hoped to see again next year.

The Rev. F. Warre, as the senior officer of the Society, thanked Mr. Dickinson for his kindness in presiding. He had been Secretary nearly nine years, and without a word of disparagement to any other gentleman, he could safely say that never had the Society had a better President.

Mr. Dickinson acknowledged the compliment, and said that the success of the meeting was greatly attributable to the Secretaries (Rev. F. Warre and Rev. W. A. Jones), to whom he felt personally obliged for their exertions.

The proceedings of the Annual Meeting were then formally closed.

After the dinner, however, several of the company went into Mr. Cox's cavern, the stalactites of which are remarkably curious and beautiful.

And in returning, the Church at Rodney Stoke was examined, the Rev. G. H. Fagan attending and receiving the visitors. It contains a mural chapel of the Rodney family, with monuments of the date of James I. and Charles I. There is also a rood screen (post-Reformation), which was characterised as unique, and a pulpit to match. The architecture is Late Perpendicular.

In consequence of the lateness of the hour, it was found impossible to visit Wookey Hole, and its celebrated cavern.

Conversazione Meetings.

1859-60.

1859, *November 14th—First Meeting:*

On the Microscope.—H. J. Alford, Esq.
On Cheddar Cross.—W. F. Elliot, Esq.
On Glaciers.—W. A. Sanford, Esq.
On the Old Library in the Close at Wells.—Rev. W. A. Jones.

„ *December 12th—Second Meeting:*

Life and Genius of Schiller.—Rev W. R. Clark.
Microscopic Natural History.—H. J. Alford, Esq.

1860, *January 9th—Third Meeting:*

Fauna of Australia.—W. A. Sanford, Esq.
Spencer's Fairy Queen.—Rev. W. R. Clark.

1860, *February 6th—Fourth Meeting:*

The Crusades.—Rev. W. R. Clark.
On County History.—F. H. Dickinson, Esq.
On Bead-ring or Armlet.—R. Walter, Esq.

„ *March 5th—Fifth Meeting:*

On the Line of the West Saxons' Frontier in the time of Ina.—Rev. F. Warre.
The Study of Botany.—H. J. Alford, Esq.
Wild Flowers and their Localities; also, Some Remarks upon the Solar Camera.—W. F. Elliot, Esq.
British Ballad Poetry.—B. Pinchard, Esq.

The Museum.

The following donations in the Natural History Department have been presented to the Museum of the Society since last Annual Meeting :—

A specimen of the Lammergiër, or Bearded Eagle, (Gypætus barbatus), presented by W. A. Sanford, Esq.

The Osprey (Pandias halaiëtas) ; also a specimen of the Crested Grebe (Podiceps cristatus), presented by the Rev. Gerald Carew.

The Gros-beak (Coccothraustes vulgaris), Fringilla montifringilla, and F. nivalis, from C. N. Welman, Esq.

Two small collections of Eggs of British Birds, by W. Goodland and E. Ardwell.

Sphinx convolvuli, by the Rev. W. A. Jones.

Colias edusa, by the Rev. T. Hugo.

A small collection of British Coleoptera, from G. R. Crotch, Esq.

Scolopendra (species), by C. White, Esq.

Sea snake, Pelamus bicolor, Chameleon vulgaris, Crocodilus vulgaris, Naia tripudians, Exocetus volitans, Scorpio, species, Whip snake, female Termites, two Tree Lizards, leaves, flowers, and fruit of the Nutmeg (Myristica officinalis), presented by J. W. Marriott, Esq.

Seven species of Cyprias, C. moneta, C. staphylæa, C. helvella, C. erosa, C. annulus; two Olivas, O. undulata, O. species, Ovulum ovœformis, by W. A. SANFORD, Esq.

Helix alternata, Planorbis trivalvis, P. campanulatus, Physa heterotropha, Limnea reflexa, Littorina palliata, Tellina calcarea, T. Grœnlandica, Astarta Laurentiana, presented by Mr. PARFITT.

Piece of Devonian Limestone, shewing the ripple-marks of the ancient sea; specimens of Goniatites crenistriæ, by W. A. SANFORD, Esq.

Portions of an Ichthyosaurus, presented by the Rev. W. A. JONES.

Portions of curious nodular contorted strata of Devonian rocks, by the Rev F. WARRE.

List of Archæological Donations, &c., to the Museum:—

Thirty-seven Seals, and 19 Taunton Farthings, presented by the Rev. W. F. BRYANT.

A Threepenny-piece of Queen Anne, by Mrs. LEVERSEDGE.

A Shilling (?) of Queen Mary, from Mr. T. COKER.

Part of a Grey-beard or Bellarmine, from Mr. PETERS.

Common Seal of the Burgesses of Stoke-Courcy, and Marble Sculpture supposed to represent Castor and Pollux, from the collection of the late Mr. J. H. Payne, presented by Mrs. PAYNE.

A group in alabaster, representing the Ascension, from the Rev. F. WARRE.

Ten pieces of Græco-Italian pottery, presented by W. E. SURTEES, Esq.

Reading Stand, presented by C. N. WELMAN, Esq.

Translation of ancient Charter of lands in Etyfemstantune, supposed to be Jameston, date 948, by the Rev. H. D. WICKHAM.

Conveyance of Land at Haydon in Mendip, and also a paper relating to the Monmouth Rebellion, by the Rev. H. D. WICKHAM.

List of the Knights and Burgesses of the City and County of Durham, from W. E. SURTEES, Esq.

Large Roman (?) tile, presented by Sir W. TREVELYAN.

On Pilgrims' Signs, from the "Archæologia," by the Rev. THOMAS HUGO.

Engraving of West Window of Exeter Cathedral, presented by the Rev. J. A. YATMAN.

Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society, parts 3, 4, 5; also a Coasting Voyage to Mambosa and the Pagani-river, by Captains Burton and J. H. Speke; presented by Captain SPEKE.

Publications from Societies:—

Bi-monthly Journal of the Kilkenny Archæological Society.

Journal of the Royal Dublin Society.

Journal of the British Archæological Association.

Bulletin de Societié Vaudoise.

East Anglian Notes and Queries, January, 1860.

Suffolk Institute of Archæology, vol. III., part 1st, 1859.

Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Magazine, 4 parts, for November, 1858, March, July, December, 1859; also a Geological Coloured Chart of Wiltshire.

Archæological Journal, purchased.

ADDITIONS, ETC.,

TO THE REV. THOMAS HUGO'S HISTORY OF

Taunton Priory.

BY THE AUTHOR OF THE HISTORY.

THE inadvertent omission of these was not noticed until the sheets wherein they were intended to appear had been printed off. The reader, however, will find no difficulty in perusing them in connection with their context by attending to the reference prefixed to each.

Page 3, *line* 3, *read* the generality of students.

Page 6, *line* 2, *read* Aisse

Page 7, *line* 4, *read* Lydyard

Page 8, *line* 20, *insert* In or about the year 1180, the Priory of Buckland was transferred to the Knights Hospitallers of S. John of Jerusalem; and of the Canons of that House three were received on their own petition into the Hospital at Clerkenwell, two into the Priory of Taunton, one into the Priory of Berlitz, and one into the Priory of S. Bartholomew in Smithfield.*

* MS. in Off. Armor. L. 17. Dugd. VI., 837.

Page 11, *for a second note of reference, add* Plac. de Jur. et Ass. Somers. 8 Edw. I., m. 18.

Page 15, *line* 25, *for* 8*s*. *read* 100*s*.

Page 15, *line* 30, *insert* Wythele, £3 6s. 8d.

Page 16, *line* 1, *add* with its chapels,

Page 16, *line* 15, *insert* On the 22nd of March, in the 26th year of Edward I., 1297-8, in a Perambulation then taken of the Forest of Exmore, the Prior of Taunton is stated to hold the vill of Broggelesnole and Levecote, and the hamlets of Telchete and La Merse, with their woods, heaths, and other appurtenances. (See page 77.)*

Page 17, *line* 1, *after* and *place a comma.*

Page 19, *line* 1, *add* by Thomas de Sutton, Canon,

Page 19, *line* 19, *add* Otterford, Withiel,

Page 19, *line* 24, *read* 22nd of May,

Page 40, *line* 26, *read* March;

Page 40, *line* 28, *read* April,

Page 41, *line* 1, *add* Licence to elect had been granted at London on the 21st of March, the Convent's intimation of the election was dated in their Chapter House on the 30th of that month, and the Bishop of Winchester's assent to the same at Suthwerk on the 4th of April.† In the licence to elect, the Bishop, after wishing the Sub-prior and Convent "health in the embraces of the Saviour," and acknowledging the receipt of the intelligence of the vacancy, beseeches them "in the name of Jesus Christ to have before their eyes in the election God alone and the common advantage of their House; and, putting away from them the vice of singularity and all carnal affections, and uniting each several heart in the bond of peace and

* Ad. de Domerham, Hist. Glast. I., 193, 194.

† Reg. Edyndon, tom. I., ff. 8, 10b, 11.

concord, holding, according to the apostolic precept, the same sentiments, so that there be no schisms among them, to endeavour to choose for their prior and pastor a man pleasing to God, approved for the sincerity of his religion, peaceful and prudent, not a slave to unsuitable will, but more desirous of profiting his brethren than of preëminence over them, under whose vigilant care their monastery may be prosperously directed, and by the divine mercy be amply blessed."* To this the Convent replied as follows :—"To the venerable Father in Christ, lord William, by the grace of God Bishop elect of Winchester, and confirmed Patron of the Conventual Church of Taunton, of the diocese of Bath and Wells, his humble and devoted Chaplains and Canons Regular, Robert Sub-prior and the Convent of the said Church, in devoted humility of soul, with all the reverence and honor due to so great a father, intimate to your lordship, by the tenor of these presents, that, our Church aforesaid being vacant by the death of brother Robert de Messyngham, the last Prior of the same, and licence having been conceded to us by your lordship of electing a future Prior, all things having been observed which by the law and custom of the Church are so to be, we have elected for our Prior our beloved in Christ, Brother Thomas Cook by name, one of our brethren and a Canon of the aforesaid Church, a man provident and discreet, the bearer of these presents. Hence it is that we present the same to your lordship, supplicating with devout entreaty that, affording your gracious assent to our aforesaid election, you would be pleased by the consideration of charity to direct your letters to the venerable Father lord Ralph [Radulphus de Salopia] by the grace of God Bishop

* E Registr. Edyndon, tom. I., fol. 8.

of Bath and Wells, our diocesan, upon this, and that the said father would favourably condescend to perfect those things which in regard to the dispatch of the said election are incumbent on his office. May the Most High long preserve your lordship for the rule of His holy Church. Dated in our Chapter House at Taunton, on the last day but one of the month of March, in the year of our Lord MCCCXLVI."* The Bishop of Winchester in his letter to his brother at Wells complies with this prayer, and, after express mention of his licence having been obtained and his assent given, desires his favour in behalf of the elect, whom he praises as a man allowed by report to be "richly endued with perfection of manners, sincerity of religion, and other gifts of grace."†

Page 41, *note* * *add* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 176.

Page 45, *line* 28, *read* November, 1361,

Page 45, *line* 29, *read* January, 1361-2,

Page 45, *line* 30, *add* The licence to elect is dated at Suthwerk on the 23rd of November, 1361, and the assent at the same place on the 17th of January, 1361-2. The Bishop in both of these instruments uses very similar terms to those with which the reader has just been made acquainted, and in the former of them urgently presses upon the attention of the community the importance of the duty which had devolved upon it.‡

Page 46, *line* 11, *insert* In a Perambulation between the Counties of Somerset and Devon, ordered to be made on the 1st of July, in the 41st year of Edward III., 1367, the Prior of Taunton was affirmed to hold a certain croft at the

* E Registr. Edyndon, tom. I., fol. 10b.

† E Registr. Edyndon, tom. I., fol. 11.

‡ Reg. Edyndon, tom. I., ff. 112b, 113b.

line of division, between a spring called Owiline (see page 15) and Payneshurne. The Perambulation was confirmed by "inspeximus" by Richard II., on the 4th of February, 1385-6.*

Page 47, *line* 26, *insert* On the 1st of July, 1382, John de Kyngesbury, Prior, and his Convent, proved in the Court of Chancery their right to the lands and advowson of the Church of Wildelond, or Willelond, in the County of Devon, an early gift of William Fitz-Odo. (See page 7.) The record is dated on the octave of S. John the Baptist, 6th Richard II., which is coincident with the date above given.†

Page 48, *line* 5, *after* rebuilt *place a comma.*

Page 48, *line* 13, *add* or S. Giles,

Page 48, *line* 19, *read* permit willows

Page 51, *line* 8, *insert* On the 1st of April, 1403, a letter was addressed in the name of K. Henry IV. to various personages, requesting the loan of the sums specified against their names, to enable him to resist the Welch and Scotch. The amount thus solicited of "Le Priour de Taunton" was "v^{c} marcs."‡

Page 52, *note* ‡ *add* Reg. Well. Bowet, 48.

Page 53, *line* 14, *insert* At an Inquisition taken at Barnstaple, on the Wednesday after the feast of S. Lucia, Virgin, in the 4th of Henry VI., or the 19th of December, 1425, before Thomas Beaumont, the King's Eschaetor, the Prior was stated to hold land in Lucote (see page 29) at half a knight's fee, of the clear yearly value of two shillings beyond all reprises.‖

* Pat. 9 Ric. II., p. 2, mm. 32, 33.

† Inquis. p.m. 6 Ric. II., n. 174.

‡ MS. Cott. Cleop. F. VI., f. 284. Proceedings of Privy Council, I., 201.

‖ Inquis. p.m. 4 Hen. VI., n. 32 (12).

Page 53, *line* 19, *read* Hullyng.

Page 53, *line* 21, *insert* to Richard Marchaunt of Taunton, and John Baker, John Tanner, John Okham, Roger Touker, William Goky, William Payn, Thomas Osebern, and John Mavyell, of the same place,

Page 57, *line* 3, *read* 1475-6,

Page 57, *line* 31, *insert* the 7th of March,

Page 64, *line* 25, *insert* On the 20th of May, 1524, Thomas Waren and John Mount conveyed to William Bury, Vicar of Taunton, John Swayne, clerk, Roger Hill, William Tedbury, John Soper, John Eston, Robert Horsey, and others, divers lands, tenements, and rents in Taunton, and elsewhere, bequeathed by John Bisshop in behalf of a chantry lately founded by him in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene.*

Page 71, *line* 13, *after* inserted *place a comma.*

Page 74, *line* 9, *after* 1378; *insert* occurs in 1382;

Page 75, *line* 15, *add* In 1391, John Russchton was Sub-prior.

Page 76, *line* 9, *insert* William Moyhun, 1347;

Page 77, *line* 4, *read* Levecote

Page 80, *line* 17, *read* was

Page 85, *note* * *add* Claus. 26 Hen. VIII. m. 15. Rymer Fœd. XIV. 504.

Page 100, *line* 23, *insert* On the 15th of January, 26 Hen. VIII., 1535, the Prior William Wyllyams and Convent granted a corrody to John Wadham. By this and the instances which follow, we gain a very curious insight into the internal arrangements and life of the House, as well as a specimen of the heavy charges to which many of the greater monasteries were obliged to submit. The cor-

* Ex Original. in Off. Aug. L. 49.

rody consisted of regular maintenance, day by day and year by year during life, in eatables and drinkables for himself at the table of the Prior, "ad mensam Prioris," and for two servants at the table of the servitors, "ad mensam valectorum," or an equivalent if absent of two shillings a week; six acres of their meadow called Hole Mede, in their demesne lands, the produce of which to be cut and carried for the said John; a sufficient stable called the West Stable next to that commonly called the Gesten Stable; twelve bushels of beans and the same quantity of oats, or at his pleasure eight pence for each bushel of beans and six pence for each bushel of oats; pasturage for four horses all the year in their pasture called Carterlease; a sufficient chamber called the Toure Chamber in the chapel, with an inner chamber and all other appurtenances; sixteen cartloads of firewood from their demesne woods called the Moure; and four ells of cloth for his livery, "pro libario suo," of the value of six shillings an ell. In case of non-performance the Convent was to forfeit the sum of twenty shillings, for which the said John Wadham was empowered to distrain. The Court of Augmentation allowed the said John, in Michaelmas Term, on the 25th of October, 1539, instead of this corrody, the sum of seven pounds a year, with arrears from the dissolution of the House.*

On the 31st of December, 1537, the Prior and Convent granted by special favour an annual benevolence to William Grendon, vicar of Nynehed, and one of the Canons and brother of the House, consisting of a weekly delivery of eight conventual loaves and of eight flagons of conventual ale. In lieu of this the Augmentation Court allowed

* Enrolments of Orders and Decrees in the Exchequer, Off. Aug., vol. VI., f. clxxvii, clxxvii b.

him on the 6th of February, 1541, an annuity of fifty shillings and arrears.*

On the 10th of February, 1538, the Prior and Convent granted to John Bytford, Bachelor of Arts, an annuity of five marcs sterling, issuing from the lands and tenements of their manor of Myddyldon, with power to distrain; maintenance in eatables and drinkables at the table of the Prior, and for his serving boy with the boys of the chapel; a sufficient chamber which one Roger Worthe aforetime had; wood for his fire in the aforesaid chamber, to be delivered every day at the door thereof; a white loaf and a quart of conventual ale every night, and two candles to be supplied for the said chamber, or wheresoever else it might please the said John; and four ells of woollen cloth "pro libario suo," of the value of five shillings per ell. This was given "for good service and diligence in teaching and instructing our novices and the whole Convent in the rudiments of grammar and other kinds of literature." So much for monastic ignorance, on which it is too generally the fashion to dilate. Taunton Priory was in fact one of the schools in which knowledge exercised her sway, and John Bytford was her honoured teacher. The Court of Augmentation adjudged him, in lieu of this grant, an annuity of five pounds for life, with arrears, on the 17th of November, 1539.†

On the 25th of June, 1538, the Prior and Convent granted to John Cars the office of Bailiff of Dulverton, Buggethole, and Lewcote; a rent of three pounds sterling, issuing from their rents and tenements in Dulverton; ten cartloads of fuel, as much as four yoke of oxen could draw

* Enrolments, vol. VII., f. xxviii.

† Enrolments, vol. VI. ff. clxxxvii b, clxxxviii b.

or carry from any of their woods in Dulverton, except Mershe Wood; and a robe or tunic of the livery of the said Prior and Convent, as the servitors of the said Prior and Convent have. He obtained in lieu of this from the Court of Augmentation, on the 10th of February, 1540, an annuity of four pounds with arrears.*

Shortly afterwards the Prior and Convent made a grant to another of their instructors. On the 16th of September, 1538, they agreed to give to Thomas Foxe, their organist and chapel master, an annual stipend of five pounds sterling, payable quarterly; four cartloads of fuel from their own woods, to be carted to his house at their expense; a house of theirs without fine next their tenement in Canon Street, at a rent of six shillings and eight pence; a gown or robe "ex libariis nostris optimis;" and maintenance daily at the table of the cellarer or with the servants "ad ultimam refectionem in aula." In return for this he was to teach and instruct the boys in the musical part of Divine Service daily in their chapel, and if any of the Canons should be disposed to learn to play on the organ, the said Thomas was to instruct him to the best of his ability. The Augmentation Court ordered him in lieu thereof an annuity of five pounds for life, with arrears, on the 20th of June, 1539.†

On the 10th of December, 1538, they granted to John Tregonwell, Doctor of Laws, out of the special regard which they entertained for him, an annuity of three pounds charged on their manor of Dulverton. It would appear that this regard was founded rather on the hopes of future aid than on gratitude for services already received. In the present as in other instances, however, wherein we find

* Enrolments, vol. iv. f. 117.
† Enrolments, vol. x. f. iiiᶜxxiii b.

this John Tregonwell mentioned in a similar manner, the hope was delusive, for he soon appears as one of the tyrant's agents in the suppression of the House. The annuity, therefore, was of course ordered by the Court of Augmentation to be paid, together with arrears, on the 10th of February, 1540.*

Five days subsequently, 15th of December, 1538, they granted to William Glastok, out of their special regard for him, an annuity, charged upon their manor of Wyllonde, of forty shillings, with power to distrain. The Court of Augmentation continued the annuity with the arrears, by an order dated the 12th of February, 1540.†

It will be perceived that these details are derived from the Enrolments of Orders and Decrees in the Exchequer, where the grounds of each petition are severally stated as above. It is only too certain, however, that these Orders were but little regarded. The government grew weary of the constantly recurring payments, and endeavoured to rid itself of a burden which it had soon no funds to liquidate.

I may here add, in completion of the subject, that the same Court of Augmentation ordered divers sums to be paid to the Dean and Chapter of Wells, the Chancellor of Wells, and the Archdeacons of Wells and Taunton, under the various heads of pensions, synodals, &c.;‡ and that on the 28th of May, 1543, it granted to Matthew Whytlyng, Chantry Priest of Donyatte, (see pp. 37, 45, and 90) a decree for the continuance of his annual pension of £3 6s. 8d.||

Page 102, *line* 24, *add* He consecrated the Church and

* Enrolments, vol. IV., f. 199b.

† Enrolments, vol. IV., f. 4b.

‡ Enrolments, vol. IV., f. 9b.; vol. V., f. clxxxiii b.; vol. X., f. cccliiii; vol. XIV., f. clviii b.

|| Enrolments, vol. XIV. f. xxxxv b.

Cemetery of S. Saviour, at Puxton, on the Festival of the Conception, the 8th of December, 1539, and was presented to the prebend of Whitlakynton on the 4th of January, 1557-8.*

Page 106, *note* *, *add* Reg. Well. Fuller, 344. Rymer, Fœd. XIV. 635.

Page 124, *note* *, *add* Particulars for Grants, in Off. Aug. Add. MS. Brit. Mus. 21,307. p. 75. Wood Sales, Rot. 36, Hen. VIII. fol. 41. Rot. 37. f. 43.

Page 125, *line* 6, *after* Oxford *place a comma.*

Page 125, *line* 15, *insert* To Lawrence Hyde a tenement belonging to Swing's Chantry, a Chantry House and burgages belonging to S. Andrew's Chantry, a Chantry House and other tenements belonging to Swing's Chantry, all in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene, and Nethweys Chapell belonging to S. Etheldrede's Chantry.† To John Dodington a house belonging to a Chantry, also in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene.‡ To Giles Kelway and William Leonard rents of the Guild of the Holy Sepulchre, and of Trinity Chantry in the same Church.‖ And to William Twisden and John Browne a house and the rents of divers burgages belonging to Blessed Virgin Mary's or Bisshoppes Chantry in the same Church.§

THOMAS HUGO.

* MS. Harl. 6967, ff. 53b, 67b.

† Particulars of Sales, vol. I., pp. 11b, 71b; vol. II., p. 198b. Add. M.S. B.M. 21,314, pp. 172, 173, 175.

‡ Particulars of Sales, vol. I., p. 40b.

‖ Id. vol. I., pp. 247b, 248.

§ Id. vol. II., pp. 280b, 281, 281b.

The Site of Maunton Priory.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
1859, PART II.

PAPERS, ETC.

Taunton Priory.

BY THE REV. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., ETC., HON. MEMBER.

JUST outside the eastern boundary of the town of Taunton, within sight of its towers and sound of its melodious bells, a number of green and flowery fields edge the winding banks of a river, than which not one in England presents more captivating scenes of peaceful retirement and rural beauty. The meadow next adjacent to the gardens, which belong to houses whose fronts are in the neighbouring street, yet exhibits features indicative of an use widely contrasting with that to which it is at present applied. Numerous inequalities of surface, although covered with a rich and luxuriant sward, unmistakeably suggest, even by their very regularity, the conclusion that the place has witnessed a far other and busier kind of life, whatever and whenever that was, than the existence of dreamy silence and uninterrupted repose to which it has been at length consigned. These grassy mounds, if they could reveal their

history, might disclose to us many a tale of passionate interest, now, spite of all our care, kept secret from the world for ever, and buried beyond all power of recovery in the absorbing grave of time.

A stately Priory occupied the spot and made it holy ground. Its pious founder was blessed with the instinctive acumen of most similar benefactors, and selected his site with a taste and ability that left no cause for subsequent regret. From the very walls of the House the meadows sloped away gently towards the Tone; and the scene which stretched beyond was as lovely as any on which an Englishman's eye could rest. The valley in the foreground, through which the river winded, was all but a forest, though nominally devoted to the operations of the husbandman. Here the mill of Tobrigge was a conspicuous object, and behind it rose the groves of Hestercombe and the grey tower of Monkton. A little to the right, smiling in mysterious grandeur, was Creechbury Hill that looked down upon Bathpool and its noted mills. While the background of the picture was composed of the long and diversified line of the Quantocks, with Cothelstone, Buncombe, Woodball, and Burlinch* for their highest and most prominent points.

In addition to its special interest, as a locality consecrated by olden memories, the scene has many and peculiar charms for me. I have, therefore, most willingly undertaken some amount of pains and labour in endeavouring to collect and weave into a consecutive narrative the notices relating to this once celebrated House—including, as they necessarily must, the ecclesiastical history of the neighbourhood at large of which it was the recognised head and

* Or Burlings.

canonical centre—which our various repositories of MSS. yet possess, and which, though existing in rolls and registers, are entirely lost to the world of students at large. A very few pages would be sufficient to contain the information, meagre in amount and with little pretensions to accuracy, which has hitherto been committed to the press; and I accordingly feel considerable pleasure that the result of my labours enables me to place before my reader a series of annals, which extend along a duration of several centuries, and, whether they refer to the donations of benefactors without or to the more private affairs of the House within, unite in furnishing him with a far clearer and more comprehensive knowledge of the subject of our present research than we have of most other establishments of a similar kind. To do this at last for Taunton Priory has indeed been a labour of reverential love, and is the only—yet withal, happily for me, precious—mode that I possess of showing alike my recollection of days and persons gone and past away, since the spot was first endeared to me, and my gratitude for the suggestion of many a good thought and high endeavour which the sacred locality has inspired, —influences whose power can never end save with the last moments of a life which they have not a little availed to colour.

Let my reader imagine himself seated on the fragrant sward, and think, as his eye travels over the rich and varied scene before him, that he is listening to what I have to communicate from the stores examined and collected for him from many a ponderous volume, thickly-written roll and faded charter, and placed at length in his secure possession.

The House derived its origin from the piety and munificence of William Gyffarde, Bishop of Winchester and

Chancellor of England, the "*Præsul incomparabilis*" of the *Historia major Wintoniensis*, some time (for the exact date is uncertain) about the year 1115, the 15th of King Henry I. It will be recollected that Taunton was a manor of the Bishops of Winchester;* and it is probable that this circumstance may have decided Gyffarde in the choice of his locality. Leland mentions his successor, Henry Blesance, or de Blois, brother of King Stephen and grandson of the Conqueror, known as the princely benefactor of the hospital of S. Cross, near Winchester, and the unflinching friend of Archbishop Becket, as a joint founder.† Most likely the last-named bishop erected a portion of the Priory buildings, and from his liberality in this department was considered to deserve a share of the honour. To William Gyffarde, however, the merit of the original foundation is unquestionably due. The charter which commemorated the good work is not extant in any form; but the fact is certified by an Inquisition taken before the King's Eschaetor at Taunton, on the 6th of January, 1316-17, to which I shall draw the reader's attention in its chronological order. The House was founded for Black Canons, or Canons Regular, of the order of S. Augustine, (who had been first located by Eudo at Colchester in 1105, and the next year at S. Mary Overy in Southwark, by the same Bishop Gyffarde) and was dedicated to the Apostles SS. Peter and Paul.

The first contemporary notice which I have found relating to the Priory is contained in a charter by which Robert, Bp. of Bath, among the *notabilia* of his episcopate, converts Hywis, or Huish, part of his manor at Bane-

* Cod. Dipl. Ævi Sax. nn. MII., DXCVIII., DC., &c. Domesday, vol. I., p. 87b. Rot. Hundred. 4 Edw. I, m. 13., &c.

† *Collect.*, vol. I., p. 81.

well, into a prebend in the Cathedral Church of Wells. The instrument * asserts that although the land in question, a hide in extent, as indeed its name implies, had been known of ancient times to be the property of the Church, it had been by the favour of the bishop's predecessors so transferred to the power and possession of many persons both clerical and lay, among whom were Walter de Moretan, Alfred, and Richard de Montacute, that it was in danger of being altogether alienated from its rightful ownership; and that therefore, to avoid any such mischance, it was released from its dangerous uncertainty of tenure, and constituted a perpetual prebend as aforesaid. The document bears date the 4th of November, 1159; and the witnesses—which, I may add, constitute a very valuable list, as more than one among them are the earliest superiors of their monasteries whose names have as yet been recovered—are Ivo, Dean of Wells, and his Convent; Peter, Prior of Bath, and his Convent; Alan, Abbat of Muchelney; Benedict, Abbat of Athelney; Robert, Prior of Glastonbury; William, Prior of Montacute; Stephen, Prior of Taunton; William, Prior of Bruton; and the Archdeacons Robert and Thomas. This is the earliest Prior in our list of those dignitaries, and the present is the earliest date at which he appears.

The same Stephen, together with his fraternity, made to Reginald, Bp. of Bath, who governed that see from the year 1174 to 1191, various concessions of episcopal dues in respect of their churches and chapels, with express reservation, however, of the chapels of S. James, S. George de Fonte (Wilton), S. Margaret's hospital chapel (near the almshouse beyond the East-reach turnpike-gate), and S.

* MS. Harl. 6968, pp. 24, 25.

Peter de Castello (a chapel in the Castle). Similar concessions were made in respect of their churches of Asse and Wirele.* Stephen is also a witness to a charter of Oliver de Dinan, recounting the gift of his church of Bokelande,† and to one of Richard, Bishop of Winchester, setting forth the gift of William lord of Haselburg of his church of Haselburg, for conversion into prebends in the Cathedral Church of Wells.‡ The latter is dated A.D. 1174. The same Prior occurs also in 1189. ‖

The Priory immediately upon its foundation was possessed of powerful friends, and soon became a wealthy and flourishing community. In the reign of Henry the Second the Canons obtained a charter of confirmation of the several grants made to them by various benefactors from their founder downwards. The charter itself does not exist, but its several provisions are inserted and confirmed in another, technically called a charter of "*Inspeximus*," of the 8th year of Edward III, which will presently be noticed at length.

This charter of Henry II. ran as follows :—"Henry, King of England and duke of Normandy and Aquitaine, and earl of Anjou, to the archbishops, bishops, abbats, earls, &c., and all his faithful subjects of England and Normandy, French and English, health. Know ye that I have granted and confirmed for a perpetual alms to God and the church of Tanton, and the Canons there serving God, the donations which have been reasonably made to them. Of the gift of Bishop William, the founder of the same church, all the churches of Tan-

* MS. Harl. 6968, p. 37.
† MS. Harl. 6968, p. 83.
‡ MS. Harl. 6968, p. 61.
‖ Archer, from Reg. Well. I. ff. 35, 60.

ton, together with their chapels and all their appurtenances, and the land of Blakedon (Blackdown), and the church of Kingeston with its chapels and their appurtenances; the church of Lydiard with its appurtenances, the church of Legh (Angersleigh) with its appurtenances, the church of Hill (Hill Bishop's or Bishop's Hull) with its appurtenances. Of the gift of Bishop Henry, the church of Pypemynstr (Pitminster), with its appurtenances and chapels. Of the gift of Robert Arundell, two hides of land at Aiss (Ash), and the church of the same vill with its appurtenances. Of the gift of William Fitz Otho, the land of Wildeland (Willand), and the church of the same vill with its appurtenances, by the concession of William, his grandson and heir, as their charter attests. Of the gift of William de Moioun, the land of Lydiart (Lydeard). Of the gift of Richard de Turberville, by the concession of Hugh his brother, the church of Dulverton and the land of Golialand. Of the gift of Roger Brito, the land of Uppecot. Of the gift of Baldwin de Cumbe, the land of More. Of the gift of Geoffrey Foliot, one virgate and a half in the land of Stanton. Of the gift of Osbert and Geoffrey de Hidon, the land of Middeldon. Of the gift of Baldwin de Cumbe, sixteen acres. Of the gift of Hugh de Flury, twenty acres of land in Hestercumbe. Wherefore I will and straitly charge that the aforesaid Canons do have and hold for a perpetual alms all these things aforesaid with all their appurtenances, in wood and plain, in meadows and pastures, in ways and paths, in waters and mills, in fairs and markets, in marshes and vivaries, in fisheries, inside the burg and outside, and in all places and in all things, with soc and sac, and toll, and team, and infangenethef, and all their other liberties, and free customs and quittances. As

well, and in peace, and freely, and quietly, and entirely, and fully, and honorably as they have been reasonably given to them, and as the charters of their donors attest and confirm. Because they and all their possessions and things are in my proper hand and custody as my proper alms, and it will displease me if any man do them injury and contumely. Witnesses, Richard Bp. of London, Nigel Bp. of Ely, and Robert Bp. of Lincoln, Thomas [à Becket] chancellor, Robert Earl of Leicester, William Earl of Gloucester, Henry de Essex constable, &c. Dated at London."

We can obtain a very near approximation to the date of this charter from the names of the witnesses appended to it. It could not have been previous to 1157, for in that year Thomas à Becket was made Chancellor, nor subsequent to 1161, in which died the second Richard Beaumes, Bishop of London, both of whom are among them.

Such, then, were the possessions of the Priory in the early part of the reign of Henry II.

Robert occurs Prior in a deed dated May, 1197.

King John, in a charter dated the 17th of July, 1204, gave to the Canons of Taunton the pasture of Kingeshull, from Wulfeldesont to Huntenes well, in free, pure, and perpetual alms. This charter may be found on an ancient roll under the title "*Cart. Antiq. Z. n.* 16." It also appears, with a few verbal differences, on the Charter Roll of the 6th of John, m. 12. The date annexed is the same in both, but the latter was apparently copied from the former. As this is the oldest charter made in favour of the Priory which we possess exactly in its original form, a literal English translation may not be unacceptable :—

"John, by the grace of God, etc. Know ye that we, by the consideration of divine love, and for the health of our

soul, and of our ancestors and our heirs, have given and by our present charter have confirmed to God and the Church of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul of Tanton, and to the Canons Regular there serving God, the pasture and the waste of Kingeshull from Wulfeldesont as far as Huntenceswell, the pasture to wit and the waste which customarily paid to our farm of Sumerton sixteen pence per annum; to be held by the same Canons of us and of our heirs, for a free, pure and perpetual alms. Wherefore we will and straitly charge that the aforesaid Canons do have and hold the aforesaid pasture and waste well, and in peace, freely, and honorably, dischargedly, and quietly from all custom and secular exaction, as the charter which we made to them whilst we were Earl of Morton reasonably attests. Witness W. Earl of Salisbury, and more besides. Dated at Westminster, the 17th day of July, in the sixth year of our reign (1204)." *

We learn from the Testa de Nevill that this property was situated upon Quantock. In the record referred to the name is written "Kingeshill," and the land is stated to have been accustomed to pay yearly to the Exchequer in London the sum of sixteen pence. †

The Prior appears to have proved his right, against William de Prahulle, to one carucate of land with its appurtenances at Wudeham, some time in the same reign. The record, however, is fragmentary, and the exact date uncertain, but it was probably about the year 1204. ‡

John, Prior of Taunton, who does not appear in the lists of Dugdale and Collinson, and therefore, as a matter of course, not in those of Savage and other copyists, was

* Cart. Antiq. Z. n. 16.

† Test. de Nev., p. 162.

‡ Frag. Rec. incert. temp. Reg. Joh. rot. 3. in dorso. Abrev. Plac. p. 95.

witness to a confirmation by Savaricus to the Abbot and Convent of Muchelney of the great tithes of their Church of Somerton.* The other witnesses were Benedict, Abbat of Athelney; Durandus, Prior of Montacute; and Gilbert, Prior of Bruton. Savaricus was Bishop of Bath from A.D. 1192 to 1205.

The same John was a party in a Fine made at Winchester, on the Tuesday after Michaelmas, 1204, with the William de Praule just mentioned, who disclaimed all title to lands in Wodeham and Godesaltr, in the county of Devon.

It may not be amiss to record that the Archdeacon of Taunton and his official held their court in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene, in the 28th year of King Henry III. 1244.†

In the 39th year of Henry III., 1255, the Prior is stated to possess a due and service of two shillings, payable by Reginald of Bath on land in Radewell held by him of Henry de Penebrugg in soccage.‡ He was also returned as paying towards an Aid for a royal marriage the sum of five marcs, and as owing five more.‖

The Patent Roll of the 3rd year of King Edward I. 1275, exhibits the Prior of Taunton as possessed of common of pasture in Oggesole, and of a certain watercourse in Asse Herbert and Asse Prior's.§

The House had by this time been founded upwards of one hundred and fifty years, and had been steadily increasing in wealth and importance. Since the death, however,

* MS. Harl. 6968, pp. 5, 6. Ex magno lib. cart. &c.

† Plac. in Com. Dors. &c. Anno Reg. Hen. III., XXVIII. Abbrev. Plac. p. 121.

‡ Inquis. p. m. 39 Hen. III. MS. Harl. 4120.

‖ Test. de Nevill, p. 168. § Pat. 3 Edw. I. m. 35.

of Bishop Henry de Blois, the successor of their founder, the society had not, so far as our researches have enabled us to discover, augmented or renovated their conventual buildings. With the year 1277 a movement was made in this direction, which, as we shall remark during our progress, extended its operations over more than half a century. There exists a letter of Walter Bronescomb, Bishop of Exeter, dated at Clyst, on the 13th of March in that year, addressed to the Archdeacons of Exeter and Totness, reminding them of the account to be given at the last day, and of the duty of anticipating that period by the performance of good works, setting forth that he had authorised the Questors, the bearers of the letter, to solicit the alms of the faithful in the diocese of Exeter for one year, towards the erection of the Conventual Church of the Priory of Taunton, and exhorting and urging them to aid the collectors to the utmost of their power both by word and deed. The missive furnishes us with the additional information that the good Canons had commenced their church in a style of great magnificence. Although it is probable that a considerable increase in their treasury was the result of this appeal, the expensive nature of the fabric necessitated, as we have already observed, the employment of a similar mode of collecting funds on several subsequent occasions.*

The Prior was affirmed to hold in villenage a messuage and an acre of land with its appurtenances, in the suburbs of Taunton, by the jurors at the assize before the Justices Itinerant held at Somerton, on the morrow of the Festival of the Ascension, in the 8th of Edward I, which is coincident with the 31st of May, 1280.

* E Reg. Dom. Walt. Bronescomb, Exon. Ep., fol. 85b.

In the 18th year of Edward I, 1290, Philip de Thorlakeston gave to the Prior and Convent one messuage and six ferlings of land with their appurtenances in Thorlakeston (Thurloxton), and Richard de Portbury gave them one ferling of land with its appurtenances in Westowe. It may be interesting to the reader if I briefly describe the process by which such property was conveyed during the ages connected with our present research, and of which the instance before us furnishes an easily intelligible example. Its object was to protect from injury the rights and possessions both of sovereign and of subject. A petition was in the first place made to the king for licence to alienate lands which the law of mortmain made unalienable, or to possess any peculiar favour or privilege, as the case might be. A writ was thereupon addressed to the King's Escheator, or Sheriff of the county, commanding him to empannel a jury, and to take their verdict on the question whether the granting of such licence or privilege would be to the damage or prejudice of the king himself or of others. On the verdict being returned that there would be no such damage or prejudice, the king's letters patent were issued in behalf of the donor and receiver, empowering the one party to give and the other to accept the property or privilege which was the subject of solicitation.

In agreement with this usage, we have three documents preserved among the Records, of which the following are literal translations. First, there is the King's writ to the Sheriff:—

"Edward, by the grace of God King of England, Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitaine, to the Sheriff of Somerset health. We command you that by the oath of trusty and liege men of your Bailiwick, by whom the truth of the matter may be better known, you diligently enquire

whether it be to the damage or prejudice of us or of others, if we concede to Philip de Thorlakeston that he have power to give and assign to our beloved in Christ the Prior and Convent of Taunton one messuage and six ferlings of land with its appurtenances in Thorlakeston, to be held by the said Prior and Convent and their successors for ever, or not. And if it be to the damage or prejudice of us or of others, then to what damage or prejudice of us, and to what damage or prejudice of others, and of whom, and of what sort, and in what way, and of whose fee that messuage and land be, and how many are the middle men between us and the aforesaid Philip, and how much that messuage and land be worth a year in all outgoings. And that you send us without delay that Inquisition distinctly and fitly made under your seal and the seals of them by whom it shall have been made, and this writ. Witness myself at Westminster, the sixth day of May, in the eighteenth year of our reign." Indorsed :—"The Inquisition which by that writ has been made is to this writ attached." *

Then comes the verdict of the jury so assembled :—

"Inquisition made before the Sheriff by oath of Richard de Nywton, John de Marisco, Simon le Bret, Simon Michel, David le Vygur, Thomas Lambryth, James de Orcharde, John de Treberge, Luke Mody, John Wyion, Richard le Hare, and John de Develiz, who say upon their oath that if our lord the King should concede that Philip de Thurlockeston should have power to give and assign to the Prior and Convent of Tanton one messuage and six ferlings of land with the appurtenances in Thurlockeston, to be held by the said Prior and Convent and their successors for ever, it would not be to the damage or prejudice of

* Inquis. ad qd. dam. 18 Edw. I, n. 63.

the King nor of others; and they say that the aforesaid Philip holds that messuage and that land of the said Prior and Convent, and that the aforesaid messuage and land are of the fee of the said Prior, and that the aforesaid Prior holds them of John de Mohun, and the said John of our lord the King in capite. They say also that there are no more middle men between our lord the King and the aforesaid Philip, and that that messuage and that land are worth twelve shillings a year in all outgoings. In testimony whereof the aforesaid Jurors have to this Inquisition affixed their seals." *

A similar precept was issued to the Sheriff in the case of Richard de Portbury, and a similar verdict returned.†

Then, lastly, we have the letters patent granting the petition :—

"For the Prior and Convent of Taunton concerning licence of receiving land, &c. The king to all, &c., health. Although by the common counsel of our realm we have provided that it be not lawful for religious or other men to enter upon the fee of any person, so that it may descend in mortmain without our licence and that of the chief lord of whom that thing is immediately held, wishful nevertheless to do a special act of grace to Philip de Thorlakeston, we have given him licence, so far as in us lies, that he have power to give and assign one messuage and six ferlings of land with appurtenances in Thorlakeston; and to Richard de Porbury, that he have power to give and assign one ferling of land with appurtenances in Westowe, to our beloved in Christ the Prior and Convent of Taunton, to be held by them and their successors for ever; and

* Inquis. ad q. d. 18 Edw. I., n. 63.
† Inquis. ad q. d. 18 Edw. I., n. 64.

to the said Prior and Convent, that they have power to receive that messuage and land from the aforesaid Richard and Philip by the tenor of these presents we similarly grant special licence; being unwilling that the same Philip and Richard, or the aforesaid Prior and Convent, by reason of our statute upon this in anything be molested or put to trouble; reserving nevertheless to the chief lords of that fee the services thencefrom due and customary. In testimony whereof, &c. Witness the King, at Westminster, the twelfth day of July." *

In the year 1288, Pope Nicholas IV. granted the Tenths of all ecclesiastical benefices, which together with the First Fruits had for a long period been paid to the Roman See, to King Edward I. for six years, as a means of defraying the cost of a crusade. In order that the most might be made of the Pope's concession, a taxation was commenced in the same year, and not entirely finished until four years afterwards. In this most interesting and important record, according to which all taxes both to the Pope and the King were strictly regulated down to the time of the Valor of Henry VIII, the Priory is stated to be possessed of lands at Ewilline in Staunton and Middeldon, valued at £2 2s. 5d.; Willelond, £2 0s. 4d.; Upstrete, 15s.; Capelod in Coury, 15s.; Preston, near Mulverton, 10s.; Essy Prioris (Ash Priors), 8s.; Nydehyde, (Ninehead), £1 5s.; Westmonek (Westmonkton), 10s.; Lydiard S. Laurence, 20s.; Bruges (Bridgwater), 10s.; Northperton, 20s.; Thornlockeston (Thurloxton), appropriated to the pitancier, £3 10s. 8d.; Spaxton, 13s. 4d.; Stregeston (Stringston), 9s.; Haswylle, 10s.; Dulvertone, also as it seems appropriated to the pitancier, 26s.; Toulonde, £1 11s. 3d.; and Stoke, £1 10s.

* Pat. 18 Edw. I, m. 18.

The rectory of S. Mary Magdalene was valued at the same time at £60; Pyministr, at £21 6s. 8d.; Nienhid, at £4 6s. 8d.; Kyngeston, at £13 6s. 8d.; Cumbeflori, at £4 1s. 8d.; Moneketon, at £20; Thurleber, at £6 13 4d.; Lidiard S. Laurence, at £9 6s. 8d.; and Esse Prior at £1. The Prior is returned as having a particular yearly pension from Dulverton of £3, and from Lidiard S. Laurence of £1 6s. 8d.*

In 1295, the Prior is stated to hold the vill of Wildeland, by a quarter of one knight's fee, of John de Humfraville, who held it of the king in capite.

In the 25th of Edward I, 1297, the Prior is returned in the Parliamentary writs for the counties of Somerset and Dorset, as holding lands, &c., and similarly in 1300.†

On the 5th of November, 1308, the 2nd year of Edward II., the chapel of S. Mary Magdalene at Taunton was constituted a vicarage. It had previously been served by the Canons of the Priory Church, who continued to be the rectors until the dissolution. The ordination was made at Taunton, by Antony de Bradeneye and Henry de Chanyngton, Archdeacon of Taunton, the Commissioners appointed by the Bishop for that purpose, on the Tuesday after the feast of All Saints, and was confirmed by the Bishop on the Wednesday after the feast of S. Martin, in the year above mentioned. Walter Haselshaw was at that time Bishop of Bath and Wells, being elected in 1302 and dying 1312. I have transcribed the document from the copy which exists among Dr. Hutton's extracts from the Wells Registers, made by him in the seventeenth century, and preserved among his MSS. in the British Museum;

* Tax. Eccl. P. Nich. IV., pp. 152, 183b, 198b, 201, 201b, 205, 205b.
† Parl. Writs, I., 858.

and as it is one of more than ordinary interest for the general reader, a literal translation may not be unacceptable.

"Walter, Bishop of Bath and Wells, ordains and appoints that Master Simon de Lym, vicar of the chapel of S. Mary Magdalene, Tanton, the parish church appropriated to the Priory of SS. Peter and Paul at Tanton, as vicar incumbent and instituted in the same, shall every week in the year receive twenty-one canonical loaves, and forty-two conventual flagons of ale, and seven loaves, that is to say of boulted flour, of the same weight as the canonical loaves, and two loaves of finest white bread, and seven flagons of best ale; and shall receive every year of the said Prior and Convent fifteen marcs of silver; and six cartloads of hay, and seven bushels of oats every week for his horse, and two shillings for the shoeing of his horse every year; and shall receive freely all legacies made to him in the parish; and have the same houses and curtilages as those belonging to his predecessors, with the following cure and charge; namely, that he shall serve at his own cost, by himself and his curates, the chapel of S. Mary Magdalene of Tanton, of Trendle (Trull), of the Castle, and of Fons S. George (Wilton), in the sacraments and other Divine offices of the church; with this addition, that he shall find a priest constantly resident for the service at Trendle. Also we ordain that for the aid of the said vicar and his successors, to whom the cure of souls of the whole parish of the said parish church is specially committed by the ordinary of the place, and on whom it falls, the said Prior and his successors shall perpetually provide for himself and his successors for the performance of Divine service by one secular priest for the chapels of Stoke and of Riston (Ruishton) which are sufficiently contiguous, and

for the chapels of Stapelgrave (Staplegrove) and S. James by another secular priest, and also for the chapel of Hulle Bishop's by a third secular priest, each constantly resident in the said places, and with his own proper stipend; with this reservation, that the said Prior may cause service to be performed in the chapel of S. George of Ryston, and of S. James, on Sundays and holidays by some well-reputed of his brethren, with the license of the bishop, in assistance of the priests in masses, at least when need shall require. Also we ordain that the said vicar and all his priests serving in the said chapels do make oath of fidelity to the said Prior and rector at their admission, that they will repay and refund all and singular offerings in the aforesaid places to the Prior himself without trouble and defalcation. Also we will that for the augmentation of the said vicar's portions two quarters of corn shall be delivered to the said vicar from the grange or granary of the Priory at the festival of our Lord's Nativity. The ordinary charges more fully incumbent on the said parish church the aforesaid religious shall duly sustain, and their portion of the extraordinary according to the rating of the same. And the said Prior and Convent shall provide books, vestments, and other ecclesiastical furniture meet for the said chapels at their own expense. Dated at Tanton, Nov. 1308." *

In 1313 John is named as Prior. He was at that time very old and infirm, and the bishop appointed two of the Canons to be his coadjutors.† He is referred to, I presume, in the charter of the 8th of Edward III., to be noticed presently, as receiving land at Dulverton of Richard de Wetenden. On the 2nd of April, 1314, he gave con-

* MS. Harl. 6964, pp. 22, 23, 24.

† Archer, from *Reg. Drok.*, f. 140.

sent to some contemplated amendments in the Ordination of the vicarage just noticed, which were not, however, carried into effect.

We now arrive at another class of documents illustrative of the progress of the House and the exercise of its rights. We have already seen the Canons possessed of various appropriated rectories, and have now to regard them as patrons of the benefices thus committed to their rule. These notices will furnish us for upwards of two centuries with as complete a history as can now be recovered of the ecclesiastical changes in each of their parishes. As affording such information I hardly need say that they are of special interest and importance.

It may be as well, however, to enumerate the benefices which the documents already quoted mention as belonging to them. They were the churches of Taunton, (I give them in modern orthography) Bishop's Hull, Kingston, Lydiard S. Lawrence, Angersleigh, Pitminster, Thurlbeer, Ash Priors, Dulverton, Runnington, Combflory, Ninehead, Thurloxton, Willand, and Clannaborough. It must be recollected that S. James' in Taunton, Ruishton, Stoke S. Mary, Staplegrove, Wilton, and Trull, were chapels under Taunton.

On the 21st of June, 1315, Richard le Bellringer was presented by the Prior and Convent to the vicarage of Nyenhide.*

On the 8th of September, 1315, the Bishop certified the Treasurer and Barons of the Exchequer, that the Abbats of Glastonbury and Muchelney, and the Priors of Taunton and Montacute, had received for the maintenance of four Templars doing penance in their monasteries, for two

* MS. Harl., 6964, p. 26.

hundred and seventy six days, at the rate of four pence a day for each.*

On the 5th of March, 1316, the 9th of Edward II., the Prior of Taunton was certified, pursuant to writ then tested at Clipston, as Lord of the Townships of Willand, Prior Merston, and Monksbeare, in the county of Devon. He was also certified in like manner, and at the same time, as one of the Lords of the Township of Dulverton.†

We now arrive at the formal proof of the identity of William Gyffarde and the founder of the Priory. This, as I have already stated, is contained in an Inquisition taken before the King's Eschaetor on the 6th of January, in the tenth year of K. Edward II., or A.D. 1317. The original, although one of the very few records belonging to this House which have hitherto been committed to the press, is given but in abstract, and with the omission of details always interesting to a local enquirer. A translation here follows for those of my readers to whom, in its native dress, it might not be familiar :—

"An Inquisition taken before the Eschaetor of our Lord the King, at Taunton, on the 6th day of January, in the tenth year of the reign of K. Edward; whether, to wit, the Priory of Taunton is of the foundation of the progenitors of our lord the king, some time kings of England, or of the progenitor of the king himself, or of others, or of another, and of what men, and of what man, and about what lands and tenements, and from what time : by the oath of John Horcherd, Philip de Bampton, John Aunger, John de Loveton, Geoffrey de Netherecote, William Punchardoun, William de Webbewelle, John

* MS. Harl., 6964, pp. 28, 29.

† Parl. Writs, vol. II, div. 3, p, 387.

Hywhys, William de Combe, Hugh de Reigny, Walter atte Walle, and William de Haleswelle. Who say upon their oath that the Priory of Taunton is not of the foundation of the progenitors of our lord the king, kings of England, or of the progenitor of some one king. But they say that the aforesaid Priory is of the foundation of one William Gyffard, formerly Bishop of Winchester, before the time of King Edmund Iryneside, from which time memory is not extant, of all his land in the northern part outside the east gate of his vill of Taunton, for the erection in the same place of a monastery, and its site by bounds and divisions contained and named in the charter of the same Bishop, for a pure and perpetual alms; which very foundation and gift Henry King of England and Duke of Normandy and Aquitaine and Earl of Anjou confirmed by his own charter for a pure and perpetual alms, as in the charter of the aforesaid Bishop touching the aforesaid foundation and gift is more fully contained. And they say that the said Priory hath no lands or tenements of the foundation or gift of any progenitor whomsoever of the King of England, or of the progenitors of any whomsoever of the Kings of England. In witness whereof the aforesaid Jurors have to this Inquisition affixed their seals." *

The attribution by the Jurors of Bishop Gyffarde, who is known to have been consecrated in the year 1107, to a period anterior to that of King Edmund Ironside, although properly characterized by Dugdale as "error maximus," is nevertheless in some measure to be understood and accounted for. For, although the historians of the Anglo-Saxon æra are silent on the subject, there is

* Inquis. ad q. d., 10 Edw. II., n. 172.

abundant reason to feel assured that a monastic establishment existed at Taunton for a century and a half at least before the Norman invasion. Where their House was situated, whether on the site of the subsequent Priory or elsewhere, we have no means of discovering. But the fact of the existence of such a community does not admit of doubt. There is a charter of Bishop Denewulf to King Eadweard of Wessex, and a counter charter of the king to him, dated in the year 904,* "pro perpetua libertate illius monasterii quod dicitur Tantun," and speaking of it not as a new foundation, but as one which had existed for some considerable time. The bishop gives to the king certain lands at Stoce for this privilege. Among other customary liabilities due from the monastery, are enumerated board and lodging to the king for one night; the same for eight dogs and their keeper; for nine nights to the king's falconers; attendance, horses, carts, &c., when the king was progressing to "Curig" or "Willettun," together with attendance on the king's visitors to the nearest of his royal residences. It is probable that some confused tradition of such an establishment operated on the Jurors' minds in leading them to the conclusion, erroneous so far as the date, at which they arrived.

The proof of the correct attribution of the foundation of the Priory to Bishop Gyffarde, whatever may be the history or wherever the site of any earlier establishment, is by this Inquisition rendered doubly clear and conclusive. The reader will recollect that the document has been reserved until now, in order that it might occupy its exact place in the chronological series, although it refers to the earliest fact in the annals of the House.

* Cod. Dipl. Ævi Sax., nn. MLXXXII, MLXXXIV.

The thread of the narrative shall now be resumed.

On the 27th of September, 1317, the Prior and Convent presented John de Kingesbury to the church of Comflory.*

On the 30th of May, 1318, the Prior and Convent presented William de la Pytte to the church of Tholokeston.†

On the 4th of November, in the same year, they presented J. de Kyngesbury to the church of Lidiard S. Laurence, void by the resignation of Thomas de Columbrugg; and on the same day Thomas de Columbrugg to the church of Comflory, by exchange.‡

In January, 1321-2, the rectors, vicars, and other ecclesiastical persons in the Deanery of Taunton, gave of their own free will one penny in the pound of their incomes, according to the taxation of their benefices, towards the erection of a new bell tower in the Cathedral Church of Wells.‖

In December, 1325, died Prior Stephen de Picoteston; and Ralph de Colmstoke was elected Prior on the 6th of January, 1325-6, received assent on the 11th, and was confirmed in his office on the 23rd of the same month.§

The acceptance of the Prior elect and consent of the patron are thus recorded :—

"To the venerable Father in Christ Lord John, by the grace of God Bishop of Bath and Wells, John, by permission of the same, Bishop of Winchester, health and continual increase of mutual brotherhood in the Lord. The Conventual Church of blessed Peter of Tanton, of your diocese and our patronage, being lately vacant by the death

* MS. Harl. 6964, p. 56.
† MS. Harl. 6964, p. 2.
‡ MS. Harl. 6964, p. 5.
‖ MS. Harl. 6968, p. 109.
§ MS. Harl. 6964, p. 99. Dr. Archer, from Reg. Drok., 270.

of Lord Stephen de Pykouteston, the last Prior of the same, and licence of electing a Prior having been asked for and obtained of us the patron of the same church, Brother Robert de Lym, Canon and precentor of the aforesaid Conventual Church, and the Convent of the same place have elected, as we have been certified, Brother Ralph de Culmpstok, one of the Canons and sub-prior of the aforesaid Church, for the Prior and pastor of them and of that Conventual Church. Wherefore we, so far as to us belongs, accepting the person of him elected, presented to us the patron of the same Church by Brothers Roger Terry and William de Reygin, Canons of the said Church, have given to his election our consent as well as our assent. In witness whereof, &c. Given at Waltham, the 11th day of January, in the year of our Lord above stated (1325-6), and of our consecration the third." *

On the 26th of August, 1326, William Syward was presented to the church of Ronyngton, void by the death of William de Lydeford.†

On the 8th of May, 1327, Richard de Fifhide was presented to Hauckewell, void by the resignation of John Broun.‡

We have already seen that, so early as the year 1277, the Canons were commencing the erection of their Con-

* E Reg. Dom. Joh. de Stratford, Winton. Ep., fol. 13b. I feel much pleasure in offering my grateful thanks to the Rev. Dr. Oliver, for a complete copy of this document from the Winchester Registry, instead of the reference and abstract which I previously possessed. To the same gentleman, the truly learned and accomplished author of the *Monasticon Dioecesis Exoniensis*, I am likewise indebted for a copy of the Indulgence granted in 1472, in behalf of S. Margaret's hospital, noticed at a future page, and for a complete copy of the Petition of the Convent to the Patron for leave to elect a Prior on the resignation of John Prous, dated the 3rd of February, 1513-4, both also from the Winchester Registry.

† MS. Harl. 6964, p. 105.

‡ MS. Harl. 6964, p. 106.

ventual Church in a style of sumptuous magnificence. Fifty years had elapsed from that period, and the fabric was still unfinished; not so much perhaps from failure of the appeal then issued as from the expensive and onerous nature of the work itself. An attempt, however, was now made to bring it to a conclusion, and funds were collected by the instrumentality of an Indulgence. John de Stratford, Bishop of Winchester, who appears to have been not only the ecclesiastical patron but the firm and munificent friend of the Priory, issued a letter "to our beloved sons, our Archdeacons of Winchester and Surrey and their officials, and deans, rectors also and vicars and parish chaplains both exempt and non-exempt within our diocese, health, grace, and benediction." He reminds them of the value to the souls of Christian people of alms expended in the erection of sacred edifices, and then introduces to them the object of the present appeal, the completion of the Conventual Church of Taunton lately commenced, which was now unhappily delayed through lack of funds. He enjoins and commands them, when the messengers or procurators made their appearance, to receive them with all kindness, to stir up their people to a work of so great piety and charity, and to do their best, both in their own persons and in those of their flocks, to make the mission of the collectors effectual. And, in order to incite them to this duty, he concludes by granting to all those who with contrition and confession shall give aid to the good work an Indulgence of forty days. "In testimony whereof we have ordered our seal to be affixed to these our letters patent, to last for two years from the present date. Dated at Rympton, the 30th of September, in the year of our Lord one thousand three hundred and twenty seven." *

* E Reg. Dom. Joh. de Stratford, Winton. Ep., fol. 29.

In 1330, the Prior was one of the sub-collectors of the tenth demanded by the Pope, to be divided equally between himself and Edward III. The other sub-collectors were the Abbats of Glastonbury and Keynesham.*

In the same year the Prior was affirmed to hold of John de Mohun (*see page* 14) the manor of Thurloxton, by the service of one knight's fee.†

On the 4th of December, 1331, the Bishop dates at Taunton a letter for a subsidy in behalf of the completion of a chapel by Pontefract Bridge, Yorkshire.‡

On the 9th of March, 1331-2, a commission is given to Ralph the Prior to wash with holy water the Conventual Church, which had incurred pollution "by the shedding of blood."‖

On the 20th of March, 1332, the Prior and Convent presented Richard de Poterne to the vicarage of Tanton; and on the 2nd of September, in the same year, the Prior was summoned to the council in London, together with the Abbats of Glastonbury, Muchelney, Athelney, &c. Thomas Flour of Southpedertone was, on the 24th of the same month, presented to the vicarage of Dulverton, on the death of Adam, late vicar thereof.§

On the 26th of July, 1333, Walter de Quenton was presented to the church of Thurlokeston, on the resignation of Gilbert.¶

I have now to present the reader with one of the most precious documents which we possess in connexion with the House, but one whose value has nevertheless been very

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 35.
† Inquis. p. m. 4 Edw. III. n. 35.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 46.
‖ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 54. Reg. Well. Rad. 51.
§ MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 57, 62, 63.
¶ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 73.

much overlooked. The charter to which I refer, which is one of "*Inspeximus*" was granted in the 8th year of K. Edward III., and bears date the 1st of October, 1334.* It is a document of considerable length, occupying a large portion of two membranes of the venerable roll in which it is contained, and extending to two hundred and ten lines of closely penned and much abbreviated writing. I have, however, willingly undergone the labour of transcribing it, on account of its paramount importance in the history of the Priory. Dugdale contented himself with copying and publishing the first few lines only; and subsequent writers, no doubt supposing that he had given the whole, are characteristically silent with respect to the far more voluminous remainder. I shall, therefore, continue the list of donors and donations, as furnished by this most valuable and important record, giving the names of the localities—as I have done and shall do throughout this memoir—in their original orthography. Though so lengthy, it will be found to repay most richly a minute examination and an attentive study.

The first donation which occurs after those whereof mention is made in the charter of Henry II., is that of King John, with which the reader has been already presented, of the pasture of Kyngeshell from Wulfeldesont, or Wulfhefdyete, to Huntenewell. Then we have the gifts of Gilbert de Helleworth, of the advowson and church of Runeton; of Ralph de Flory, of a virgate of land called Beidun in Widela; of Richard de Plessetis, lord of Nyweton, of land called Chademede; of Richard de Montacute the younger, of an acre of land at Thorlebere, adjoining a place called Therless; of William de Montacute, of the church of

* Cart. 8 Edw. III., n. 12, mm. 5, 6.

Thurlebere; of Simon de Montacute, son and heir of William, of the advowson of the church of Thorlebere; of the same Simon, of a confirmation of all donations granted by his ancestors; of the same, of an acquittance with respect to the enclosure of the park of Donneyhete; the gift of the same, of four quarters and five bushels and a half of corn, from his granary at Thurlebere, every year on the festival of S. Martin; of William de Montacute, of that portion of land at Thurlasse which his mother had previously given; of Walter, son and heir of Bernard de Pereton, of lands at Northpereton and Newcton, with their liberties, customs, and dues; of Henry de Erlegh, of fines, &c., connected with the said lands; of the same, of an acquittance of various dues, including that of a yearly rent of eighteen pence received by him from the land of Colemanneshat; of the same Henry, of fifteen acres of land in his moor of Northmore; of the same, of free ingress to and egress from, and liberty to repair a trench in the aforesaid land; of Reginald, son and heir of Jordan de Pykeston, of his land at Pykeston; of William de Pykeston, son of Jordan de Pykeston, of his land at Pykeston and Linegereslaund; of Robert Feroun, of land held by him of the fee of Wolmarestone; of Baldewin Fitzgirold, of land called Lynyegereslaunde at Nygahide; of Robert Feroun, of land in Esshe; of the same, of one messuage with two gardens in Mulverton; of Simon de Flury, son and heir of Hugh de Flury, of forty acres in his manor of Cumbe; of the same, of sixteen acres in his manor of Cumbe; of the same, of nine acres and a half in his manor of Cumbe, in the land called Galand; of the same, of the church of Lydeard S. Laurence with all its appurtenances, and of the church of Cumbe with its appurtenances and liberties; of Ralph de Flury, of thirty two acres

beyond the ancient trench of Guppewurve, and of common of pasture in the whole of his land towards the west, so far as the head of Guppewurve, &c.; of Cecilia, formerly wife of William de Mounceaux, of one ferling of land in the manor of Wyvele; of William Bret, of one virgate of land called la Grave, and of half a virgate called la Sale; of Andrew de Bovedon, of his land at Gaveldene; of Gilbert de Wypelesdene, of the gift of Andrew de Buhedon of his land of Gaveldon in Taland; of Cecilia Bozoun, formerly wife of Geoffrey de Lidyard, of the watercourse through her land in the manor of Taland; of Ralph Fitzurse, lord of Wyleton, of land at Brimeton for the formation of a head and other necessary adjuncts to the said watercourse; of Lucy, daughter of Simon Bozoun, of land in Talaunde; of Andrew de Boghedone, of half a virgate of land in Thalaude, with a messuage, &c., which William de la Gerche held; of the same Andrew, of half a virgate of land and its appurtenances, one part of which lies in Lunedon and the other towards Lydyart Cross; of Ralph le Tort, of four ferlings of land in the manor of Wynemeresham, &c.; of Roginald le Tort, son of the aforesaid, of all his land of Luycote, and of all his wood of Chiddescumbe, of ground for the erection of a mill in Lytlecoumbe, of the watercourse of Luycote, of liberty in the moors belonging to Wynemeresham, of the wood of Luycote, the end of the wood of Yelescumbe, and ten hogs with free feed in the wood of Wynemeresham; of Ralph le Tort, of all his land of Luycote; of the same, of the liberties pertaining to the manor of Wynemeresham; of Richard de Wrotham, of all his land at Luycote with all its appurtenances; of Peter Giffard, son and heir of Peter Giffard, of a rent of twenty shillings which he received of the land of Hupesterte, &c.; of Geoffrey, son and heir

of Philip de Luccumbe, of the land of Buggedehole, with its appurtenances, liberties, and customs; of the same Geoffrey, of thirty hogs with free feed in the woods of the same Geoffrey; of William Fychet, of one ferling of land in Merryg; of the same, of common of pasture; of Gilbert, son of Hugh Fychet, of land which he held of the gift of William, his brother, in Merygg; of William, son of Engelisia de Merigge, of seven acres of land in Merygg; of Hugh Fychett, of one virgate of land with all its appurtenances, and three men, Hugh son of Richard, and William his brother, and John son of Selegine, in his manor of Strengestun, and of common of pasture in all his land in Strengiston; of Albrea, formerly wife of the aforesaid Hugh, of the same land, men and pasture; of Robert Vaux, of one ferling of land in Capilaunde, and nine acres next adjacent to la Hokederewe, and of the whole land held aforetime by Geoffrey Chaunterel, &c.; of the same Robert, of twenty hogs and one boar free of feed yearly in the wood of Capilande, called la Yornete; of Henry de Orchiat, of a warranty in regard of the same hogs and boar; of John de Tudeham, son and heir of Edmund de Tudeham, of all his land of la Clive with its appurtenances in the manor of Staunton, and of common of all the waste lying between the land of Robert de Sclade and a spring below the house of Philip and Richard de la Clive, a stream from which runs to Blakeford, in turbaries, right of grazing, &c., and of a rent of six pence yearly received from a tenement of Roger de Sutton; of Henry de la Pomeray, of common of pasture in the manor of Vpotri; of William de Say, son and heir of Robert son of Reginald, of a virgate and half of land and of common of pasture in the manor of Stanton, both for horses and all other animals, &c.; of Hamelin de Baalun, of a

virgate and a half of land of waste in the same manor, with common of pasture there for thirty brood mares and three stallions and foals with their dams to the age of three years; of Ralph de Lestre, of one virgate of land in the manor of Bykehaulle, with two acres in Leggesheye and Middelheye; of Richard de Lestre, of the same lands; of Ralph de Lestre, of eleven shillings of annual rent, and of one pound and a half of wax for the lamp of the chapel of S. Mary of Tanton; of Master John de Chilewyke, of one messuage and one ferling of land at Bikehalle, with pasture for forty hogs free of feed, and common for all their beasts within and without the forest; of Richard de Lestre, of the land and common of pasture aforesaid; of Hugh de Pymor, son and heir of Robert de Slolegh, of one croft at Thurlasse; of Robert, son and heir of Jordan de Sloleghe, of land at Sloleghe with its appurtenances, and also of four acres north of Halfangre; of Robert de Munemue, of one dwelling-house in the vill of Brug-walter; of Cecilia de Monemuwe, of one dwelling-house in Brugeswalter with its appurtenances, liberties, and free customs; of Margaret de Monemuwe, daughter of Robert de Monemuwe, the acquittance of two dwelling-houses in the vill of Brugiswalter; of Henry de Bikebirie, chaplain, son of Cicilia la Bret, of land at Thurlakeston, and of four acres at Criche called Westmede; of Cecilia la Brette, lady and heiress of Thurlakeston and of Criche, of the lands aforesaid; of Johanna de Reigny, formerly wife of Thomas de Reigny, daughter and heiress of William de Bikebirie, the acquittance of her right in four acres called Westmede in Hanecriz; of Philip de Thurlakeston, son and heir of John de Thurlakeston, clerk, of all the land held aforetime by the said Philip in the manor of Thurlakeston; also, of the acquittance of the said Philip, of all his rights in the said manor; of Geoffrey de Scoland,

of an acre of land in the manor of Thurlakeston, together with the advowson of the church of the said manor; of Hugh de Wytheston, son of Robert, brother and heir of Ralph son of Robert, of a rent of one marc of silver from the land of Halswill; of Henry de Nuburgh, of the homage of John de Halswell and his heirs, and other services from the same land; of Gilbert de Thorne, of one ferling of land at Esse, and of one acre of meadow in Vinnedebere; of William de Thorne, son and heir of Gilbert, of a confirmation of the land aforesaid; of the same William, of the land called Bastardeswode, with one acre called Splottenewode; of the same William, of his land in Ryflet, within the lands already possessed by the Canons; of John de Thurlak, of half a virgate of land in Hoccomb; of the same John, of a meadow adjacent to one of Ralph Fitzwilliam; of Richard Thurlak, of five acres of land of the fee of Hoccombe; of Girard de Brocton, of land at Batpole; of Alina, daughter of Girard de Brocton, of one virgate of land with its appurtenances at Batpole in the manor of Muneketon; of William Fychet, son and heir of Hugh Fychet, a ratification of the aforesaid gift; of Richard de la Hide, son and heir of Ralph de la Hide, of land called Hesterlangedole; of Roger de Reigny, lord of Dulverton, an acquittance of a portion of the hundred of Dulverton; of Hawis de Pyn, formerly wife of Thomas de Pyn, an acquittance of all the portions of her hundred or court of Dulverton; of William de O., of the manor of Anestiges with all its appurtenances and liberties; of Richard de Weteden, to John then Prior of Taunton and his convent, of all his land of Dulverton, and of the rights therefrom acceding to him; of the same Richard, of all his land at Pleyston; of Emma, lady of Westowe, of all her land in Westowe; of Lucy Malet, daughter of Ralph

Fitzwilliam, a confirmation of the same; of Walter de Westowe, son and heir of Emma, an acquittance of all his right and claim in respect of the same land; of Thomas Cordary, son and heir of Ralph Cordary, of Bristoll, a confirmation of all the land of the said Thomas de Westowe; of Hugh de Nyweton, son and heir of Robert de Nyweton, a confirmation of all the land of the said Thomas; of Eva, formerly wife of Thomas le Cordery, of Bristoll, an acquittance of right and claim by dower in the land of Little Westowe called Modford; of Jordan de Molton, rector of the church of Lydyard S. Laurence, of all his land in Lydyard; of Gunnilda, widow of Adam Rys, of Taunton, of all the land of Lydyard S. Laurence; of the aforesaid Jordan de Molton, of the land of Pilelegh, with all its appurtenances; of Roger de Reigny, lord of Dulverton, of all his land of la Coumbe in the manor of Dulverton, with its appurtenances; of Richard de Turberville, of land which Humfrey the father of Hugh held, and also of the whole land of the moor of Hodiam; of Roger de Ho., son and heir of William de Ho., of all the land of the said Roger in Estdraydon and Westdraydon with all their appurtenances, and also of all his land of Hundeham, and of three ferlings in Aeswei, with their appurtenances; of Constance, formerly wife of John son of Theobald, of one ferling of land, one half next the land of the chapel of Hanetwill, and the other half in Curreslade, and of the produce of the wood which William the brother of the said Constance gave to her; of John, son of Theobald, of all his land in Curislade; of Adam de Childecote, of all the land which he held of the gift of William, lord of Childecote; of Luke de Punchardun, of the church of Clonencburg, with its tithes and offerings, and other appurtenances, and of two ferlings of land, whereof each contains thirty acres, and of common of

pasture of his land of Cloneneburg, pasturage of sheep and cattle, firewood, &c., by the testimony of his servant there; of William Punchardun, of the advowson of the said church of Cloneneburg; of Reginald, son and heir of Osbert of Bath, of two shillings to be received yearly from his manor of Radewille; of William Burcy, son and heir of William Burcy, of two shillings sterling yearly from his land of Ham; of Olivar Avenel, of the land of Hacche; of William Avenel, of the same; of Robert de Treberge, of all the land of Alwyneshill; of William Frauncleyn of Merigg, of one ferling of land with its appurtenances in Westowe, and of one messuage which Gregory Chanflur formerly occupied, and of two gardens in the same place; of Alina de Westowe, formerly wife of Richard Portbury, of a piece of land called Fotacre in Westornheye in Westowe, with all its appurtenances; of Richard Portbiry of Westowe, of four acres above la Westhill, of the old garden, with one acre which lies between that garden and the land of the aforesaid Prior; of the same Richard, of all his land in la Holmheye in the manor of Westowe; of William de Bremelhull, of thirteen acres and a half of land in Westowe; of Richard Portbury of Westowe, of all his land which he held in Westerfurshulle with its appurtenances in the manor of Westowe; of Richard Godwyne of Westowe, an acquittance of all right and claim in respect of a messuage, ten acres of arable, and half an acre of meadow land with their appurtenances in Westowe; of Jordan, son of Jordan de Hulle, of two shillings of annual rent from land which Henry de Lydyard, clerk, held, and of all the land which Elias de Hille held in Hille; of Maurice de Lege, of five acres of land in Esse; of William de Hulle, son and heir of Henry de Hulle, of all his arable land of Denebiri with its appur-

tenances, and of one acre of meadow in Donekesham; of Jordan the son of Jordan de Hille, of land which Elias de Hille held in Hille; of John de Hulle, son of Mericia de Hulle, of two acres of land in Denebirie; of Jordan de Harpeford, son and heir of David de Harpeford, of all the land which Elias de Hille held in Hille; of William, Bishop of Winchester, of all his land near Fons Saint George in his manor of Tanton, with all the course of the brook of Syreford near Tanton, for the grinding of their corn, and all advantages thence to be derived. The charter concludes with the usual form of concession and confirmation of all the gifts enumerated. The witnesses are R[ichard de Bury]. Bp. of Durham, our Chancellor; H[enry Burwash]. Bp. of Lincoln, our Treasurer; John de Eltham, Earl of Cornwall, our dearest brother; John de Warenne, Earl of Surrey; Henry de Percy; William de Monteacute; Ralph de Neville, our Seneschal, and others. It is dated at Westminster, the first day of October.*

Here, as will be seen, are abstracts of upwards of one hundred and thirty five documents, whereof a few only have been noticed among the particulars which we have already had before us, but our knowledge of the great majority of which, and of the gifts which they conveyed, is solely derived from this invaluable charter. Some of them represent the grant of large possessions, and many include the mention of several separate donations. The first on the list alone records that of five churches with their chapels and appurtenances. So numerous were the endowments, and so rich the cartulary of Taunton Priory in the year 1334.

On the 8th of November, 1334, the instrument of colla-

* Cart. 8 Edw. III., n. 12, mm. 5, 6.

tion of Walter de Burtone, S.T.P., Canon of Wells, to the subdeanery of that Cathedral Church, void by the death of Walter Broun, was dated at Tanton.*

On the 7th of December, 1334, Ralph the Prior, and Walter, prior of Brywton, were appointed by the Bishop collectors of the tenth voted to the king.†

In 1335, the Priory Church was still, as it appears, in need of funds for its completion, and a licence was granted to collect alms for that purpose for two years.‡

On the 17th of June, 1336, Geoffrey de Reyny was presented to the church of Combeflory, on the resignation of Tho. de Columbrugge.‖

The pious liberality of benefactors, great as it had hitherto been, was, however, not yet exhausted. The first Patent Roll of the 11th of Edward III. contains the particulars of the gift in fee farm by William de Montacute, earl of Salisbury, of the manor and hundred of Dulverton, with its appurtenances. The rent to be paid for this important concession was ten pounds a year. The witnesses to the instrument were Richard Lovel, John de Palton, John de Reigny, John de Menbury, Adam Le Brut, Ralph de Middelneye, Thomas de Orcharde, John atte Yerde, and others, names which, as in multitudes of other instances, the local reader will identify with those of places in the neighbourhood. It was dated in the Chapter House of the Priory of Taunton, on the 18th of March, 1337, and confirmed by the king at Westminster, on the 21st of the same month.§

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 83.
† MS. Harl. 6965, p. 84.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 101.
‖ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 106.
§ Pat. 11 Edw. III. p. 1. m. 12.

The Conventual Church was still unfinished, though probably not much remained to be done. An Indulgence of fifteen days was granted, dated at Wyvelescomb, on the 10th of April, 1337, to all who should contribute towards its completion.* It was in this way that such stately fabrics were reared. The erection of our glorious mediæval Churches was the work not of a year or two, but of whole ages of faith, hope, and charity.

A difficulty here meets us which requires explanation.

We find, on the Close Roll of the 11th of Edward III., an instrument, dated at London, the 20th of November, 1337, and setting forth that Thomas, Prior of Bustlesham, and his Convent gave and confirmed to William de Montacute, earl of Salisbury, their founder, the manor of Hurdecote, and also ten marcs of annual rent which were paid by the Prior and Convent of Taunton on behalf of their manor and hundred of Dulverton, the grant of which has just been mentioned.† The gift to them, however, of these ten marcs does not appear in the earl's charter to the Priory of Taunton, in which nothing is said about any particular use to which the rent should be devoted. In the first Patent Roll of the 29th of Edward III., this difficulty is removed. It is there explained that the Prior and Convent of Taunton are to hold the manor and hundred of Dulverton, subject to the payment of an annual rent of ten pounds. Of this sum, as we shall see presently more in detail, they are to give ten marcs to the Prior and Convent of Bustlesham, and five marcs to the Custos of the chapel of Donyate. This is dated at Westminster, the 16th of April, 1355.

On the 22nd of March, 1338-9, Ralph de Colmpstoke

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 110.

† Claus. 11 Edw. III. p. 2. m. 13.

resigned his office through the infirmities of extreme old age, and Robert de Messyngham was elected Prior in his stead, licence having been first obtained from Adam, Bishop of Winchester, the patron, on the 19th of the following April.* There were at the time of election twenty-five Canons belonging to the Priory, of whom twenty-four were present and one was abroad.†

On the 5th of November, 1339, Richard de Pym, chaplain, was presented by exchange to the vicarage of Kyngeston.‡ And a certain Walter, convicted of removing and injuring various crops, the property of William de Cammell, rector of Ivelton, was, on the 23rd of December, sentenced to do penance in several parish churches of the diocese, and that of Taunton among them.‖

On the 22nd of March, 1340, a writ was addressed to Ralph de Middelneye, the king's Eschaetor, to take the verdict of a jury relative to a third part of the Manor of Dulverton, proposed to be given to the Prior and Convent by Nicholas de Beleville. The course of procedure was exactly similar to that with which we are already acquainted. The verdict of the Jurors that the gift of such land would not be to the king's damage is dated at Lydyard S. Laurence, on the 12th of April; and the king's licence, for which the Prior paid a fine of five marcs, permitting the gift and receipt of the property was issued at Westminster on the 2nd of May.§

On the 6th of February, 1340-1, the Prior and Convent presented John Stede to the vicarage of Pipmynstr.¶

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 127.
† Dr. Archer, from *Reg. Rad.* 197.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 130.
‖ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 131.
§ Inquis. ad q. d. 14 Edw. III. (2. n.) n. 48. Pat. 14 Edw. III. p. 1. m. 2. 14 Edw. III. Rot. 24.
¶ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 142.

In the same year, 1341, Taunton saw another monastic establishment attempted at least to be added to its ecclesiastical institutions. Little is known of this House, which was founded by Walter de Meryet, clerk, for monks of the order of Blessed Mary of Mount Carmel, or Whitefriars. As usual, we find a writ addressed to the king's Eschaetor, on the 28th of April, 1341, with the common enquiries, as already known to us, and the verdict, dated the Wednesday after Pentecost, or the 30th of May, 1341, at Taunton, of the Jurors summoned in accordance thereto. The present gift is one of nine acres of meadow land with their appurtenances in Taunton, which are said to be held by the said Walter of the Bishop of Winchester at a payment of seven shillings a year, and to be worth twenty shillings a year in all outgoings. The land is stated to be given for a certain Church and monastery which are to be there erected.* The king's licence in answer is dated at the Tower of London, the 14th of June.† There was evidently some difficulty in the way; and another writ was issued, dated the 12th of May, 1343, and an Inquisition taken at Bruggewater, before Edward de Stradlyng, the Eschaetor, relating to a property, probably the same, called Cokkesmede in Taunton. This Inquisition is dated on the Tuesday after the feast of SS. Peter and Paul, Apostles, which in the year 1343 was coincident with the 1st of July; and the Jurors were John de Membury, John Auger, John Punchardoun, John de Rodyngbere, Walter de Nythercote, Thomas atte Orcharde, John Snyffamor, Philip de Cloteworth, Richard atte Rysshyn, Thomas Mauncel, William de Haretrowe,

* Inquis. ad q. d. 15 Edw. III. (2 n.) n. 58.
† Pat. 15 Edw. III. p. 2. m. 44.

and Walter atte Withie. Although the verdict was favourable, the gift appears to have been over-ruled, and the proceedings ordered to be null and void.* This may account for the obscurity which envelopes the history of the House, and which a long search among the Records has not availed to dispel. Local tradition, which is always valuable, asserts that a Monastery was situated at a short distance westward from the Castle, in a place still called Paul's Field, near the Crescent; but it is probable that, if the Carmelite House were ever actually founded and occupied the site in question, it was but of short-lived duration, and that long before the general Dissolution in the sixteenth century it had ceased to exist. I may add that Walter de Meryet died on the 18th of May, 1345.

A licence for celebrating morning mass every day in the chapel of S. Mary Magdalene was granted on the 19th of March, 1341-2.†

It appears that Walter de Monyngton, one of the founders of Bathpool Mills, was confirmed Abbat of Glastonbury, at Taunton, on the 7th of November, 1342.‡

On the 29th of January, 1343-4, William de Aysshcleigh was presented to the vicarage of Kyngeston.‖

In 1346, Taunton had a new Prior. Robert de Messyngham died in the beginning of April; and Thomas Cok, a commission on the matter of whose confirmation was dated at Dogmersfeld on the 6th of that month,

* Inquis. ad q. d. 17 Edw. III. (2. n.) n. 43. Rott. Orig. 17 Edw. III. n. 13.

† MS. Harl. 6965, p. 148.

‡ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 155.

‖ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 165.

was confirmed Prior in June.* There is a memorandum in the Register of William de Edyndon, Bishop of Winchester, that Brother Thomas le Couk, Prior of Taunton, on the 16th of June, in the presence of the venerable father William, Bishop of Winchester, in his manor of Suthwerk, did homage in person to the said father, as successor of the founder and patron of his House, by holding his joined hands between the hands of the said father, and saying, "I do you homage for the lands which I hold of you, and will bear you fealty against all people, saving the fealty to the king;" and that there were present at this homage lord Robert de Hungerford; Master John de Uske, Chancellor; and John de Beautre, Registrar.†

On the 4th of July, 1346, Robert Pippecote was presented to the Vicarage of Taunton, by exchange.‡

On the 18th of July, 1347, Thomas Floure was presented to Badyalton, by exchange; and on the 24th of November, Reginald Marchall to Thorlokkeston.‖

On the 1st of January, 1348-9, the same Reginald exchanged with Ralph Mareschal, who was admitted to Thurlokeston. William Wysman was presented to the Vicarage of Nyghenhyde, on the 11th of January; Hugh Lovegeer to the Vicarage of Dulverton, on the 11th of February; and William atte Stone to the vicarage of S. Mary Magdalene, on the 18th of the same month.§

On the 22nd of March, William de Modbury was presented to the Church of Cumbeflory.¶

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 175. Dr. Archer, from Rad. 308.
† E Reg. Will. de Edyndon, Wint. Ep. tom. 2. fol. 8.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965. p. 176.
‖ MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 186, 187.
§ MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 195, 199, 202.
¶ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 205.

On the 10th of April, 1349, John Cryspyn, chaplain, was presented to the Church of Rovyngton ; and on the same day Robert Cox, chaplain, was presented to the vicarage of Pypminster.*

On the 25th of November, 1349, a solemn sentence was pronounced in the cemetery of the Conventual Church. After an investigation before John de Sydehale, Canon of Wells, the commissary specially appointed by the Bishop, Roger de Warmwille, of Ievele, was adjudged to do penance for various delinquencies of a very atrocious character. With bare head and feet he was thrice to make circuit of the church of Ievele, and during the celebration of high mass was to hold a wax candle of one pound weight, and at the conclusion of the penance to offer it at the high altar. The priest officiating was then to state to the clergy and people present the cause of the punishment. This was also to be done thrice in the public market, and in several churches of the diocese. He was in conclusion, after sundry scourgings, to pay to the Bishop twenty pounds sterling, as bail for future good behaviour, and to go on pilgrimage to the shrine of S. Thomas at Canterbury. Such was the mode in which the Church punished wealthy offenders in the fourteenth century—a mode personally to the culprit most distasteful, and thorougly appreciated by the community at large.†

On the 22nd of June, 1350, the Prior and Convent presented John Cryspyn to Nihenhyde ; and, on the same day, William Wysman to Rovyngton, and Richard Heryng to the vicarage of Putmynster, by exchange.‡

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 207.
† MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 211, 212.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 212.

On the 18th of October, William Esch was presented to Nygenhuyde, on the resignation of John Cryspyn.*

On the 27th of January, 1350-1, Symon de Cherde was presented to the vicarage of Pypminstr.†

The year following witnessed a procedure very characteristic of the times. In order to enforce the performance of the essential duties of Christianity on every individual, the Church, recognizing alike her power and her responsibility towards those who were entrusted to her care, made it compulsory on all persons to attend their parish church, and to refrain from wandering to other churches to the consequent neglect of and absence from their own. Certain parishioners of Monketon rendered themselves liable to ecclesiastical censure on this account. It is probable that the distance at which they resided from their church had not a little to do with the matter. Portions of the parish of Monkton are but a few minutes' walk from the church of S. Mary Magdalene; while the parish church of Monkton lies at a distance of several miles, and the road, as we shall see by other evidences presently, was not in the very best condition. A mandate, however, bearing date the 21st of September, 1351, is directed by the Bishop to the vicar of Taunton, commanding him to check this presumption of the Monkton parishioners, by making strict search before the celebration of mass whether there were any from other parishes among the congregation, and, if so, to drive them from his church, and compel them to return to their own on pain of canonical censures.‡

On the 20th of October of the same year, Simon de Fareweye, parson of the church of Lidiard S. Laurence,

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 230.
† MS. Harl. 6965, p. 233.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 239.

had a writ of *Venire facias* issued against him to answer to the Prior in the matter of his annual rent of two marcs, previously noticed in the Taxation of Pope Nicholas IV.*

It will be in the reader's recollection that in the Ordination of the vicarage of Taunton, in 1308, it was provided that the Prior should maintain at his own cost a curate to serve the chapels of Staplegrove and S. James's. In the year 1353 William atte Halle was curate. He complained to the Bishop that his proper stipend, tithes and offerings, were not paid, and that his bread and ale were not supplied as the law required. He therefore prayed for the Bishop's judgment in his favour. The Bishop did not, as it appears, entertain the curate's complaint. But William atte Halle was by no means to be overcome so easily, nor in any degree willing to resign his dues without a struggle for their preservation. Accordingly he forwarded an appeal to the Archbishop of the province, as right had been denied him nearer home; and the result was a mandate from the Primate to his brother at Wells, dated the 7th of June, 1353, requiring him either within fifteen days to see justice done to the said William, or to cite the Prior and Convent to appear in London before the Archbishop or his official at the church of S. Mary le Bow. The Bishop wisely took the latter course, and issued his citation, dated at Evercrich, the 21st of July, 1353, to Thomas Cocke the Prior and certain of his Canons to appear at the place and respond to the complaint aforesaid.† So little truth is there in the assumption that in these ages injustice could be done with impunity and without appeal. And, for aught that we know, the curate himself might have been in error, and his complaint without foundation.

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 244.

† MS. Harl. 6965, p. 255.

In the October of the same year, R. C. a disobedient monk at Taunton—whether a member of the Priory is uncertain—was sent to the Priory of S. Germain's in Cornwall, for penance and imprisonment.*

On the 16th of April, 1355, the letters patent were issued to which allusion has already been made. They set forth that William earl of Salisbury, lately deceased, had given the manor and hundred of Dulverton, with all its appurtenances, by his indenture to the Prior and Convent of Taunton, to be held in fee farm by them and their successors, on their paying to the said earl and his heirs ten pounds a year. That the said earl had founded the monastery of Bustlesham, and had enriched it with sundry manors, lands, tenements and rents. That he had given to that monastery the sum of ten marcs out of the aforesaid ten pounds, and the remaining five marcs to the custos of the chapel of Donyate. And that the Prior of Taunton was to pay to each the ten and the five marcs respectively. That these moneys were to be used in aid of the said monastery of Bustlesham and chapel of Donyate, and for the performance of divine service daily in behalf of the king and the giver and their heirs. There had been some difficulty in the way of carrying out these provisions on the part of the Prior of Taunton, which on the petition of the Prior of Bustlesham was graciously removed, and both parties were empowered to proceed in agreement with the donor's intentions for their respective benefit.†

In January, 1361-2, Prior Thomas de Pederton died, and on the 17th of the same month the Canons received a new Prior in the person of Walter de Grateley.‡

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 258.
† Pat. 29 Edw. III., p. 1. m. 6.
‡ MS. Harl. 6964, p. 143. Rad. in Reg. Drok., 286.

On the 14th of February, 1361-2, William Wysman was presented to the church of Ronyngton.*

On the 10th of May, 1362, William de Essch was presented to the church of Thurlokeston, void by the death of Ralph Mareschal.†

On the 17th of the same month, William Donekyn was presented to the vicarage of Nyhenhude, void by the resignation of William de Esse.‡

On the 29th of December, 1377, Prior Walter de Grateley solemnly resigned his office in the Chapter House of the Conventual Church. He had long been suffering from the infirmities of age, and his House required a younger and more active head. There is a memorandum in the register of the famous William de Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, which is of special interest as furnishing the names of the entire body of the Canons, fifteen in number, on this important though melancholy occasion. It is there stated that on the 29th day of December, 1377, the seventh year of the pontificate of Pope Gregory XI., there appeared, in the Chapter House of the Conventual Church of the Priory of SS. Peter and Paul, at Taunton, Master Thomas Spert, the official of John, Bishop of Bath and Wells, and specially deputed as his Commissary, Henry Persay and Walter Clopton, deputed by the Lord William, Bishop of Winchester, together with Thomas Duffeld, clerk, of the diocese of Sarum, notary public, in the presence of Brothers Walter Grateley, Prior, John Kyngesbury, sub-prior, Walter Cook, cellarer, Peter Ilmynstre, sacristan, John Cley, precentor, Thomas Ilmynstre, Walter Gone, Thomas Grey, Roger Stacy, Thomas Askham,

* MS. Harl. 6964, p. 144.
† MS. Harl. 6964, p. 148.
‡ MS. Harl. 6964, p. 149.

Tholomeus Frysel, John Welles alias Tappewere, John Tuleye, Robert Newton, John Croukorn, and John Russchton, Canons Regular of the said Conventual Church. Disputes had arisen about the observance of the rules, and it was also alleged that the administration of the House both in spirituals and temporals was partly neglected, owing to the said Prior being incapacitated by old age and other infirmities. Inquiries were made, and the Canons interrogated; and presently the said Prior submitted, and voluntarily tendered the resignation of his office to the said Commissary.*

The House appears to have been without a Prior for several months. It was not until the 18th of April, 1378, that William de Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, patron of the Priory, granted to the Canons his licence to elect a Prior in the room of Br. Walter Grateley their late Prior, the office being, as we have just observed, void by his free resignation and voluntary cession.† It appears that John de Kyngesbury, who in the list of dignitaries is named the sub-prior, was elected to the vacant office; for on the 1st of May, 1378, William de Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, wrote from Suthwerk to John, Bishop of Bath and Wells, that he approved and consented to the election which had been made of Br. John de Kyngesbury to the Priorship of Taunton.‡

One of the most conspicuous and pleasing features of the landscape in the neighbourhood of the Priory was the lovely river that meandered through the fair vale of Taunton in a thousand picturesque windings, as though

* E Reg. Will. de Wykeham, Ep. Winton., vol. II., fol. clxvi.

† E Reg. Will. de Wykeham, Ep. Wint., vol. II., fol. clxvi.

‡ E Reg. Will. de Wykeham, Ep. Winton., vol. II., fol. clxvi b.

loath to quit a scene of such rich and verdant beauty. Immediately at the foot of Crecchbury Hill, at a distance of about a mile and a half from Taunton, were two well-known mills, called then, as now, Bathpool Mills, the property of the Abbats of Glastonbury, and rebuilt if not originally founded, by Abbat Walter de Monyngton somewhere about the year 1364. The river furnished the motive power of these valuable establishments, and considerable jealousy was entertained of the use thus made of it and the advantage thus derived. The Patent Roll of the 8th of Richard II, contains a long and very interesting account of an Inquisition made at Taunton, on the Tuesday next after the festival of S. Egidius, in the sixth year of the aforesaid King, or the 2nd of September, 1382, to determine the truth of certain complaints against the Abbat for various injuries done by these his mills, which, as it appears, he and his predecessors had held for eighteen years and upwards, to the river, its produce, and its trade. Among divers charges he is stated to allow willow and other trees to hang over the banks of the Tone in the parish of Monketon, so that boats are not able to pass as they were wont between the mill of Tobrigge and Bathepole. The site of Tobrigge mill was at some point of what is now called the Back Water,—with its sedgy pools fringed with old pollard willows, blackberry bushes, purple loosestrife, and hemp-agrimony—which was possibly the mill-leet, though, as I rather believe, the main channel of the stream, commencing at Firepool weir, at which perhaps the mill was situated, and rejoining the more modern though now ancient channel under a rustic bridge of wood at a short distance below Priory weir. It was also alleged that the mill for grinding corn called Bathepolemille projected from the bank of the river more by six feet than it did afore-

time; that a fulling mill adjoining the said corn mill, erected by Richard de Acton after the great pestilence—that, perhaps, of 1369—and also in the hands of the aforesaid Abbat, was similarly objectionable; and that, by reason of these impediments to the water, the cornfields and pastures were inundated. The same injury and by the same means was alleged to be done to the king's highways between Taunton and Bathepolebrigge. This, the local reader will not fail to recollect, refers to the ancient highway, now for the most part disused, which runs for a considerable distance along the bank of the river above the mill, and is one of the most picturesque of the old Somersetshire roads, a very wilderness of verdure, the constant resort of gipsies who delight in its quiet and shady nooks, and well-known to and well-beloved by all Tauntonians. It was also asserted that, through the building of the mills, the boats which used to carry merchandise from Briggewater to Taunton could not go as formerly. The complainants seemed determined to make out a case, for they proceed to allege that the fish which used to swim from Briggewater to Taunton were so hindered by the aforesaid mills that they could no longer swim as they were wont. And they added that the bank of the river which used to be thirty feet in width, was then not more than ten or twelve feet at the most, from Bathepole as far as Cryche, so that boats could not pass as they used to do. The Abbat pleaded in reply to these charges that the trees complained of grew above the mill of Bathepole, where boats never went, nor ought to, nor could go; that the new buildings of the mills were exactly of the same depth, breadth, and height as the former had been; that there was a place in the lower part of the said mills, called Bathepolecrosse, up to which all boats came, time out of mind, from Briggewater towards Taunton, and

not higher nor further, but were there time out of mind discharged and unladen ; that the Abbat had made a certain cist, through which the boats could be drawn in time of flood as far as the mill called Tobriggemill, and apart from this not above Bathepolecrosse ; and that all injury arising from the impediments alleged to be caused by the willows and other trees was removed and entirely at an end. The Abbat thereupon obtained a verdict. The exemplification is dated, the King himself being witness, at Westminster, the 15th of December, 1384.*

Prior John de Kyngesbury was gathered to his fathers on the 5th of November, 1391. On the following day, Brother John Russchton, Sub-Prior, and the Convent of Taunton, wrote to William de Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, to inform him that Br. John de Kyngesbury their Prior had departed this present life on the 5th of November, and that his body had been buried; and that, being without a Prior, they therefore begged that he their patron would grant them licence to elect another. The letter was dated in the Chapter House of their Conventual Church on the day aforesaid. On the 10th of November, the Bishop from his manor of Esshere granted to the Canons the licence which was thus solicited. On the 21st of the same month they proceeded to the election; and on that day Br. John Rysshton, Sub-Prior, and the Convent, wrote to the Bishop of Winchester informing him that they had elected Br. Walter Cook, one of their brothers and a Canon of their House, for their Prior, and prayed the Bishop's consent and approbation. This was given. On the 27th of November, William de Wykeham wrote from Esshere to Ralph, Bishop of Bath and Wells,

* Pat. 8 Ric. II., p. 2, mm. 43, 44.

that he consented to the election that had been made of Br. Walter Cook as Prior of Taunton, and begged the Bishop to complete the said election.*

In 1397, the 21st of Richard II., the Prior is certified to have lent the King the sum of fifty marcs. At the same time the Abbats of Sherburn and Keynesham lent forty marcs each.†

In 1404, the famous William de Wykeham, Bishop of Winchester, bequeathed to the Prior and Convent one hundred marcs to pray for his soul. His will was dated the 24th of July, 1403, and proved the 9th of October, 1404.

On the 21st of June, in the 7th year of Henry IV, 1406, licence was given, on payment of twelve marcs, to Richard Otery, William Portman, Thomas parson of the Church of Munketon, and Thomas Scory, to give and assign to the Prior and Convent nine acres of meadow land with their appurtenances situate in Taunton; and to the said William to give one messuage with its appurtenances also in Taunton, after the death of Walter Knolle and Agnes his wife, who had a life interest in the property. The instrument concludes with the usual reservations, &c., and is dated at Westminster, the twenty-first day of June.‡

In the same year, Walter occurs as Prior. This was Walter Coke, who died in January, 1407-8.‖

On the 18th of January, 1407-8, Robert Newton was elected, and on the 31st of the same month was confirmed Prior.§

* E Reg. Will. de Wykeham, Ep. Winton., vol. II., fol. ccli.
† Rymer, Fœd. Ed. Hag. tom. III., p. iv. 134.
‡ Pat. 7 Hen. IV., p. 2. m. 22.
‖ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 4. Dr. Archer, e Reg. Well.
§ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 4. Reg. Bowet, 48.

On the 20th of June, 1408, John Newman was presented to the Church of Ronyngton.*

On the 1st of June, 1409, occurs Robert, already noticed as Prior.†

On the 12th of August, 1413 (Collinson copied from Archer the erroneous date, 1431), Prior Robert Newton departed this life, and on the 1st of September Brother Thomas de Ufcolme, was elected Prior. He was confirmed in his office on the following day. There were then fourteen Canons in the House.‡

The injury alleged to be done to the trade of the river by the mills at Bathpool was again the subject of judicial investigation in the year 1414. An Inquisition was held at Taunton on the 5th of November, in that year, the 2nd of King Henry V. The Jurors, Thomas Osborn, Robert Grosse, Almaric atte Wythy, Robert Bullyng, William Snyffamor, Thomas Cachebar, John Haccombe, John Alrych, John Domet, Richard Fenbrygg, Matthew Short, and Robert Eysell, members of families which have already occurred in the course of this memoir, affirmed that a certain Walter, the immediate predecessor of the then Abbat of Glastonbury, had made a certain watercourse adjoining the said Bathepolemylle so narrow with an obstruction of timber and massive masonry, through the midst of the channel of the river between Taunton and Bryggewater, that the river craft — "vocat' Botes et Trowys"—with their various freight, to wit, firewood, timber, charcoal, pitch, salt, iron, lime, grain, ale, wine, &c., rather a goodly list of Taunton requirements in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, could not reach

* MS. Harl. 6966, p. 14.

† MS. Harl. 6966, p. 5.

‡ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 30. Dr. Archer, e Reg. Well.

their destination by reason of these his enclosures and impediments, to the loss and damage of a thousand pounds and much more, if a remedy were not quickly applied.*

On the 18th of November, 1415, Prior Thomas Ufcolme was summoned to Convocation at S. Paul's in London. Among others similarly summoned were John, Prior of Bath; Walter Medford, Dean of Wells; John, Abbat of Glastonbury; John, Abbat of Muchelney; Leonard, Abbat of Clyve; John, Abbat of Athelney; and John, Prior of Bruton.†

In 1415 Orders were celebrated in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene.‡

On the 14th of January, in the 5th of Henry VI., 1426-7, an Inquisition was taken with respect to a chantry founded in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene by Robert de Bathe and Tiffina his wife, who demised four messuages with their appurtenances in Taunton, in the occupation of John Walshe, Philip Gent, Walter Hulling, and Alice Lytell, respectively, of the value of twenty-six shillings and eight pence a year, for the use of the fraternity of the Holy Cross in the aforesaid Church, to provide a priest for such chantry. The bequest was originally made on the 10th of December, 1397, and now took effect on the deaths of the donors. The King's licence is dated at Westminster, the 13th of May, 1427.‖

On the 5th of October, 1429, Thomas occurs Prior as presenting to Clannaborough.§

* Inquis. ad q. d. 2 Hen. V., n. 13.
† MS. Harl. 6966, p. 21.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 31.
‖ Inquis. p. m. 5 Hen. VI., n. 62.
§ Dr. Oliver, from Reg. Exon.

In 1437 John Warr founded and endowed a chapel of S. Mary Magdalene, in the Church of S. Margaret, at Tanton, already mentioned in this memoir, for one or two chaplains.*

Time, which brings mutation to all things, is now about to carry us into days of commotion, disorder and trouble. Among other evidences of violated peace, several councils were convened for the purpose of introducing alterations into the ecclesiastical system at large, in which the judgment of the Christian world was exercised in the vain attempt of satisfying the ever-craving desires of men who are given to change, and love things more or less in proportion to their novelty. One of these councils was held at Ferrara, in order to bring about a favourite design of many, the union of the Greek and Latin Churches. Thomas Benet, Prior of Taunton, was summoned to this council in April, 1438.†

In the year 1444 the revenues of the Priory were valued at £146 13s. 4d.‡

Some unpleasantness occurred about this time in connexion with the chapel of Wilton. It will be remembered that Fons S. George was one of the chapels annexed to the vicarage of S. Mary Magdalene, and that the vicar was to serve the same at his own proper cost by himself or his curates. This he appears to have omitted to do, and a summons was issued on the 29th of March, 1444, to enquire into the reasons of his neglect.‖

Orders were celebrated in the Church of S. Mary Mag-

* MS. Harl. 6966, p. 48.
† MS. Harl. 6966, pp. 49, 50. Reg. Staff. 145.
‡ Dr. Archer, e Reg. Well.
‖ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 58.

dalene, on the 19th of September, by the Bishop of Bath and Wells. Robert Stillyngton, LL.D. of the diocese of York, was ordained acolite and sub-deacon.*

The Bishop appears to have prosecuted enquiries, similar to those just detailed, in respect of the other vicars and curates. On the 21st of September, in the same year, several of these, among whom was Richard Pomerey, chaplain of the chantry of S. Andrew in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene, were admonished under pain of excommunication to be more observant for the future of the customs and duties of their cures.†

Richard Glene, Prior, occurs on the 12th of June, 1449, and was summoned to Convocation in the same year.‡

In 1452 it appears that the Priory was burdened above measure by the delivery of bread and ale to various recipients in Taunton both of the poor and of the servants of the House. Large as were the means at command, the doles had become excessive. The Bishop issued his mandate, dated the 28th of November, as to how far such doles should be stayed, and that the serving men of the said monastery should be paid according to their labours in eatables, and drinkables, and convenient salaries, as agreement could better be made with the same.‖

John Valens, chaplain, was presented to the Church of Lydyard S. Laurence, and bound by oath to pay an annual pension of ten mares to his predecessor Thomas Drayton, resigning on account of old age and infirmity.§ It is possible that this may not be the exact place which this

* MS. Harl. 6966, p. 120.
† MS. Harl. 6966, p. 58.
‡ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 67. Reg. Bek. 88.
‖ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 74.
§ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 107.

notice should occupy in chronological order; but I have no means of rectifying the error, if such it be.

At an Ordination held in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene, on the 8th of March, 1459-60, John Arnold, M.A., of New College, Oxford, was ordained deacon, and priest on the 29th of the same month.*

An Inquisition held in the Chapel of S. Martin, at Bowe, on the 6th of August, 1470, found that the right of patronage of S. Petrock's, Clannaborough, in the Deanery of Chumleigh, was vested in the Prior and Convent of Taunton, and that they received four shillings per annum, on account of a certain glebe of some fifty acres.†

On the 24th of October, 1470, Richard (Glene), Prior, and his Convent, give the first presentation of the Church of Lydiard S. Laurence to Robert Stowell, John Cheyne, and John Trevilian.‡

A Hospital for lepers had been founded near the Chapel of S. Margaret, as early as or before the year 1280, the advowson of which was then given to the Abbat and Convent of Glastonbury by Thomas Lambryth.‖ The charity was at this time in need of pecuniary assistance, and on the 8th of July, 1472, William Wayneflete, Bishop of Winchester, by an instrument dated at Suthwerke as aforesaid, granted an Indulgence of forty days to all who should extend helping hands and contribute of their goods to the pious work. The Indulgence was to last for a period of five years.§

* MS. Harl. 6966, p. 123.

† Dr. Oliver, from Reg. Both., fol. 67. Reg. Fox, f. 148.

‡ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 130.

‖ Cart. Glaston. MS. Macro., fol. 119b.

§ E Reg. Dni. Will. Wayneflete, Ep. Winton. tom. II., fol. 152.

Richard Glene, Prior, died on the 31st of January, 1475-6.*

On the 1st of February, 1375-6, the Sub-prior and Convent addressed a letter from their Chapter House and under their common seal to William Wayneflete, Bishop of Winchester, informing him of the death of their Prior, Richard Glene, on the previous day, and soliciting him for licence to elect another. The Bishop issued his licence, dated the 9th of February, from his house in the parish of S. Olave, Suthwerk. On the 23rd of the same month, the Sub-prior and Convent, fifteen in number, addressed another letter from their Chapter House and under their common seal to the Bishop, setting forth that, out of the superlative confidence which they had in his government, they had unanimously elected him their arbiter, and supplicating him to take this burden upon him, and to choose from among their community as their future Prior one who should be devout towards God, faithful to his patron, useful to the House, and, as they hoped, affectionate to his brethren and mindful of their interests. By an instrument given under his seal in his manor of Waltham, on the 27th of February, Bishop Wayneflete acknowledged the receipt of this letter, and in virtue thereof nominated John Asshe, a Canon of their Priory and one of their brethren, of the Order of S. Augustine, and in the said Priory expressly professed, of the lawful age, and in Priest's Orders, &c., to the office of Prior, and to govern the said Priory. The Sub-prior and Convent being informed of this, accepted the said John Asshe, and, by an instrument under their common seal and dated in their Chapter House at Taunton, certified that they had elected John Exeter, a Canon

* MS. Harl. 6966, p. 144.

and brother of their House, to be their procurator, for the purpose of presenting the elect to the Bishop, and to obtain his assent and all other things belonging to his office of patron. Finally, by a document dated in his manor at Waltham, on the 17th of March, Bp. Wayneflete informs the Sub-prior and Convent that he had received their procurator, John Exeeter, and that the Prior elect had been presented to him ; and that by these presents he gave his consent and assent to the said elect and election.*

John Prowse occurs as Prior in 1492.†

On the 3rd of September in the same year, Thomas Birde, one of the Canons of the House, was elected Prior of Berlich, and confirmed on the 6th of that month.‡

John Prowse occurs also in 1497.‖

Two years afterwards saw the Prior of Taunton admitted to one of the most covetted honours that the Church could bestow. By a bull, dated at Rome the 4th of May, 1499, Pope Alexander VI. conceded to his beloved son John and his successors, the privilege of using the ring, pastoral staff, and other pontifical ornaments save the mitre ; also of pronouncing solemn benediction after mass, vespers, compline, &c., when, however, at such benediction there should be present no bishop nor legate of the Apostolic see; and of admitting to Minor Orders the Canons and choristers of the said monastery.§ This, we may be sure, was welcomed as one of the crowning acquisitions of the noble House to which it was conceded. The original

* MS. Harl. 6966, p. 144. Reg. Well. Stillington. Reg. Dni. Will. Wayneflete, Ep. Winton. vol. II. ff. 37b—39b.

† Dr. Archer, from Reg. Fox.

‡ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 149.

‖ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 153.

§ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 158.

instrument is still to be found among the MSS. at Lambeth, and from it I have copied all that is now legible.* Many words have entirely perished from the combined influence of neglect and damp, and a single touch would be sufficient to remove many more. It commences with praise of the sincere devotion and religious excellence of the community, and grounds upon these reasons the honors and concessions which follow, removing from them and each of them all ecclesiastical sentences, censures, and punishments, and proceeding to confer on the Prior and his successors the favours which have been already enumerated. The document is of special interest not only to the historian of Taunton Priory, but to the student of monastic annals in general. For although it was not uncommon to grant to the Heads of the more important Religious Houses the privilege of using the Paramenta Pontificalia, which consisted, as we learn from the Ritualists, of sandals, amice, albe, girdle, pectoral cross, stole, tunic, dalmatic, gloves, mitre, ring, staff, and maniple, and of giving Episcopal Benediction in the Church and Refectory, it is the only instance with which I am acquainted, and I am not alone in this particular, of a Prior being authorised to promote to Minor Orders the inmates of his own community. This, however, is distinctly stated—"Canonicos quoq' et chorales dicti monasterii ad minores ordines promouere libere ac licite ualeatis."

Another bull accompanied this in favour of the Priory. This document follows the one just quoted in the volume wherein it and many others have some ages ago been together though loosely mounted. Unhappily it is in even worse condition than its predecessor, while both of

* MSS. Lambeth. No. 643, art. 13.

them are among the most frayed and effaced in the whole collection, and is scarcely intelligible from the number of words either obliterated in the body of the MS. or torn away from the edge.* It appears to have been in defence of the Priory against certain "injuriatores," and in confirmation of the antecedent bull. It is addressed to the Bishops of Worcester and Exeter, and, as it seems, although the mutilations render this not quite certain, to the Abbat of Glastonbury, approving and confirming certain privileges, enjoining them to see to the solemn publication and effectual reception of the aforesaid letters, and concluding with a reference to the secular arm, in case, it may be presumed, of any disobedience or opposition on the part of the enemies of the House. The date of both instruments is apparently the same—the 4th of May, 1499. A very interesting addition to each is the endorsement, "vij° Augsti a° 1537. Taunton." written in a hand corresponding in age with the period recorded, and furnishing us, as we shall see presently, with the date of a circumstance which was hitherto unknown.

On the 17th of December, 1501, John Samson, priest, was presented to the vicarage of Nynhede, on the resignation of John Prowse, the Prior.†

On the 16th of September, 1502, John Prowse, Prior, was presented to the Church of Lydeyard S. Laurence, on the decease of John Vowell, by Nicholas Dissham, to whom the right of presentation had been conceded for that turn by the Prior and Convent.‡

On the 20th of September, in the same year, John

* MSS. Lambeth, No. 643, art. 14.
† MS. Harl. 6966, p. 161.
‡ MS. Harl. 6966, p. 165.

Baker, chaplain, was presented to the Church of Comflory, on the resignation of John Prows, Prior of Taunton.*

On the 29th of June, 1504, a faculty of plurality was granted to Hugh Thomas, vicar of S. Mary Magdalene; and on the 29th of the following October, he was presented to the vicarage of Dulverton, on the resignation of John Edyngton: the said John to receive an annual pension of £6 13s. 4d.†

On the 11th of September, 1505, Thomas Symons was presented to the Church of Thurlockston, on the resignation of John Symmys: to pay the said John an annual pension of 6s. 8d.‡

Once more we have an account of various complaints which were made of the injury done by certain mills to the neighbouring lands. On this occasion it was the mill of Northcory which was the cause of offence, as inundating and injuring the meadows. In the Wells Register is a letter from the Chapter to the Bishop of Winchester in extenuation of the alleged grievance, dated October, 1505.‖

John Trygge was presented to the vicarage of Nynehede on the 9th of September, 1507, on the resignation of John Sampson: to pay to the said John an annual pension of 40s.§

On the 30th of October, 1508, William Bury, M.A., succeeded Hugh Thomas, deceased, in the vicarage of S. Mary Magdalene, on the presentation of John Prows, Prior, and Convent.¶

* MS. Harl. 6966, p. 165.
† MS. Harl. 6967, f. 3.
‡ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 4b.
‖ MS. Harl. 6968, p. 45.
§ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 8.
¶ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 10.

On the 4th of November, in the same year, Thomas Cokysden was presented by the same John Prows, Prior, and Convent, to Nynehead, on the resignation of John Trigge: to pay to the said John Trigge an annual pension of 40s.*

On the 29th of November, in the same year, Peter Druet, M.A., was presented by the same John and his Convent to the vicarage of Dulverton, void by the death of Hugh Thomas. He was to continue the payment of the annual pension of £6 13s. 4d. to the former vicar, John Edyngton, who, after the manner of annuitants, still survived.†

On the 2nd of April, 1509, William Mors, LL.D., was presented to the vicarage of Pytmynster by the same John and Convent, on the death of Richard Mader. William Mors had obtained a dispensation for plurality, and that the Churches of S. Mary of Corscomb and of S. Dubricius of Porloke should be united to his prebend of Combe Secunda, on his assertion that the income of those two Churches did not exceed £26 13s. 4d. per annum.‡

John Prows was summoned to convocation, in December, 1509. Among others summoned at the same time were Richard Beer, Abbat of Glastonbury; Thomas Broke, Abbat of Mochilney; John Wellyngton, Abbat of Athelney; and John Peynter, Abbat of Clyve.‖

On the 11th of August, 1511, Richard Pleysse was presented to the vicarage of Kyngyston, on the death of Robert Good.§

* MS. Harl. 6967, f. 10.
† MS. Harl. 6967, f. 10.
‡ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 11.
‖ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 12b.
§ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 15.

John Prows, Prior, resigned his dignity on the 3rd of February, 1513-4.

On the day just mentioned the Sub-prior and Convent made humble supplication to Richard, Bishop of Winchester, for licence to elect another Prior, representing that their late head, John Prous, had freely resigned his dignity, and that the House so deprived was widowed and destitute of the comfort of a Prior and pastor. To avoid the injury that from this state of things would ensue, they solicit his licence to proceed to the election. The letter was dated in their Chapter House on the 3rd day of February, 1513. On the 11th of the same month the licence was granted. The Bishop enjoins them to choose for their Prior and pastor a man devoted to God and apt in all things for the government of the House, one able to defend and protect its rights in all things, and faithful and obedient to himself his ecclesiastical superior and patron.*

Their choice fell upon Nicholas Peper. He was elected on the 23rd of February, 1513-4, thirteen Canons being present and three absent. We find him in the same year summoned to convocation, together with the Abbats of Glastonbury, Mochelney, and Athelney, just mentioned, and William Dovele, Abbat of Clyve.†

On the 1st of September, 1514, John Hyll, bachelor of law, was presented to the Church of Combeflory, on the resignation of John Baker : an annual pension of five mares to be paid to the said John Baker.‡

In November, 1515, Nicholas Peper was again summoned to convocation.‖

* E Reg. Dni Ric. Fox, Winton. Ep. tom. III. fol. 30.
† MS. Harl. 6967, ff. 19b, 21b. Dr. Archer, from Reg. Adrian.
‡ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 20.
‖ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 21.

John Prows, formerly Prior, died in the earlier part of 1519, and John North succeeded him on the 11th of May in that year in his benefice of Lediard S. Laurence.*

On the 17th of February, 1519-20, Thomas Wyse, bachelor of law, succeeded William Mors, deceased, in the vicarage of Pytminster, on the presentation of John Tregonwyl, clerk, patron for that turn by the concession of the Prior and Convent.†

Robert Morwent, M.A., succeeded John North, deceased, in the Church of Ledyard S. Laurence, on the 9th of August, 1521.‡

On the 10th of April, 1522, Robert Huet was presented to the Church of Rovington, on the death of Robert Tedworth.‖

On the 12th of August, 1523, John Hogans was presented to the church of Thorlakyston, on the death of Thomas Symons, by Nicholas, Prior of Taunton, and Convent.§

Nicholas Peper, Prior, died on the 26th of September, 1523; and on the 19th of November following, William Yorke, Canon of Bruton, was nominated Prior by Cardinal Wolsey, to whom the House had given licence to appoint a successor. There were on this occasion twelve Canons present, and one absent.¶

On the 2nd of December, 1524, John Slocock was presented to the vicarage of Dulverton, on the resignation of William Bowreman.**

* MS. Harl. 6967, f. 26.
† MS. Harl. 6967, f. 27b.
‡ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 29b.
‖ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 30b.
§ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 42b.
¶ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 47b. Dr. Archer, e Reg. Clerk.
** MS. Harl. 6967, f. 43b.

On the 21st of April, 1526, John Hill was presented to the Church of Runyngton, on the death of Robert Huet.*

William Wyneyard, M.A., succeeded, on the 13th of March, 1526-7, to the vicarage of Pytmynster, vacant by the resignation of James Henton.†

On the 21st of March, 1529-30, James Dowdyng was presented to the Church of S. Egidius of Thurlokeston, on the resignation of John Ogans.‡

We have now arrived at the period of a transaction which availed to make yet another accession to the power and wealth of the Priory. The history of the proceeding has hitherto been very obscure, but sufficient can be presented to render it intelligible. There was a small and little known Priory, dedicated to S. James, and founded for Canons of the order of S. Augustine and the regulation of S. Victor, at Staffordell or Staverdale, about three miles from Wincanton. The Priory Church was the mother church of the neighbouring town. The honour of the foundation is divided between Sir William Zouche and Richard Lovel, lord of the Manor of Wincanton, to each of whom it is attributed. The former seems to have been the actual founder, but the latter so considerable a benefactor as to merit an almost equal share of praise for the good work. The Priory was endowed with lands in Wincanton, Prestley, Rackington, Eastrepe, Cattlesham, Thorn-Coffin, and other places in the county of Somerset, and in Buckham-Weston, in the county of Dorset. In the 24th of Edward III., Sir Richard Lovel, knt., founded a chantry in the Priory Church, with a messuage, a mill, two carucates of arable land, twelve acres of meadow,

* MS. Harl. 6967, f. 37b.
† MS. Harl. 6967, f. 38b.
‡ MS. Harl. 6967, f. 33b.

twelve acres of pasture, ten acres of wood, and the rent of one pound of pepper, with their appurtenances situated in Prestelcye, for a Chaplain to say daily service for the souls of himself, his father, mother, ancestors, and all the faithful departed. The Inquisition was dated at Bruton, on the 12th of October in the year aforesaid.* Many members of the families of S. Maur and Zouch found a last resting place in the Conventual Church, which, having become ruinous, was rebuilt by Sir John Stourton, knt., and consecrated on the 4th of June, 1443. The names of a few of the Priors have been recovered, and I hope at a future period to add from our MSS. repositories some additions which I possess to our present amount of published information. I am now only concerned with the House from its annexation to Taunton, which came about in the following manner.

William Grendon, Canon of Taunton, was elected Prior of Staverdale in 1524. Not long after his election he appears to have taken steps to unite his Monastery to his former and we may imagine favourite home. In this attempt he succeeded, and, with consent of his Convent, the union was effected in the 24th year of Henry VIII. The king's licence for this proceeding is entered on the Patent Roll of that year, and conveys permission to William Grendon, Prior of Staffordell, or Staverdale, to give and concede the whole of their possessions, and rights belonging thereunto, including the site, circuit, and precinct of the Priory itself, together with all and singular its churches, chapels, cemeteries, sanctuaries, manors, lordships, messuages, houses, mills, dovecots, gardens, lands, tenements, reversions, rents, services, court leets, views of

* Inquis. p. m. 24 Edw. III. (2 n.) n. 10.

franc-pledge, advowsons of churches, chapels and chantries, marshes, waters, fisheries, vivaries, warrens, and all other inheritances whatsoever, to William Yorke, Prior of Taunton, and his Convent for ever. And further, of his more abundant grace, the king gives the advowson, although held of himself in capite, of the Parish Church of Wyncalnton, hitherto enjoyed by the Prior and Convent of Staverdale, to the Prior and Convent of Taunton, without fine or fee great or small. The Patent is dated, witness the king himself, at Westminster, the 9th of April, 1533.*

At this point we may conveniently stay our progress, and endeavour to realize the more striking features of that pleasant picture of cloister life and mediæval usage which the varied details before us, culled from all sources and directions, may easily present to our intellectual vision. First in the foreground stands a noble establishment, the home of all the religion, learning, and civilization of the age, the fount and centre of that gracious influence which alone rescued England for many generations from moral degradation and mental barbarism. Here was located a sacred community that gave, so far as such was possible, a tone of refinement to the neighbourhood which its presence ennobled, the patrons and supporters of everything that could dignify, elevate, and adorn mankind. In this and similar places, green islands of devotion in the midst of the world's desert, calm houses of escape from unruly violence and the strife of tongues, quiet abodes of thoughtful meditation and saintly counsel, religion found a home specially suited to her holy mind. Sacred literature but for them would have left the world, and art but for them would have had no

* Pat. 24 Hen. VIII., p. 2, m. (31)5.

students. Most that we now enjoy and value is their precious and sacred bequest. The remains which we possess of ancient learning, whether sacred or secular, the consequent knowledge of our divine religion, the very bells that still call us to prayer, and the churches that usually receive men who respond to the invitation, our libraries, our colleges, our schools, our hospitals, all tell of those old ages of faith and patience, and make forgetfulness of their graces an ingratitude and a sin. It is nothing to the purpose that some of their enemies have taken delight in exposing the rare instances where the cloister concealed practices against which morality protests. It would indeed be strange, if, among the multitude of Religious Houses which then covered the face of England, some few deviations from rectitude were not to be discovered. As long as human nature continues to be what it is, so long it would be madness and folly to expect any other result. This, however, must by no means be allowed to prejudice the case of the great majority of such establishments. The evils that were found in a few of them—and the greatest wonder is that the instances were not more numerous—were, and still are, prominently displayed, and execration of them is sedulously courted; while the immaculate condition of the general body, a fact admitted even by unscrupulous enemies who had an interest in proving them as degraded as possible, is too often passed over, even by those who ought to know better, as a matter of no importance and unworthy of remark. Such persons are contenders not for truth but for party.

The external garb of the bountiful and gracious monastic spirit was no doubt magnificently represented in Taunton Priory. For many generations the Augustine Canon was celebrated as uniting in his single person the accordant

excellencies of the scholar and the saint. He was both patron and professor of the literature of his age; and his home breathed of the refinement of his elegant mind, and bore the impress of his exquisite taste. Here the master influence was most conspicuously evidenced. Here, in their beautiful House, amid sights and sounds that fit men for heaven, amid holy labours and the quiet study of earlier Christianity, lived, as I have elsewhere endeavoured to picture them and their brethren, the inmates of the fair Priory of Taunton. Removed from the petty cares of ordinary existence, they attained to a degree of mental cultivation to which few others could aspire. And this was combined in numberless instances with that clear and sagacious perception of the character of their times, which made them accomplished men of society as well as profound students of the cloister. A body of ecclesiastics thus ruled for several centuries the religious destinies and spiritual life of Taunton; and their government, so far as we can now arrive at an insight into it, was characterized by the excellencies of the rulers themselves. The outer man, too, symbolized the inner, for even in the Canon's very aspect there was that which was imposing in no little degree. He wore an albe that reached to the foot, and was fastened round the waist with a girdle of black leather. His amice enwrapped his shoulders like a cloke. Over these he had a long black mantle, to which was fastened a hood of the same colour; and a high black cap covered his head, and contrasted well with his flowing beard. Few ecclesiastics of other Orders could have rivalled either in mental dignity or in external bearing the Augustine Canon of Taunton.

The Church and Priory were no doubt worthy of the companionship. That the former was magnificent we have

positive proof. We can catch but a glimpse, however, of its beauties, and with that must endeavour to be content. As we have already seen, it was commenced as early as, if not previous to, the year 1277, and was still unfinished in 1337. It will thus be apparent to the architectural reader that the edifice was erected in the best and purest age of constructive art. The "Early English" was passing into the "Decorated" at the beginning of the interval, and before its close the latter style had arrived at its full exuberance of beauty. Of the other peculiarities of the structure, although we may be sure that it harmonised in its perfection with the charming scene which lay around it, we are unhappily possessed of no memorial. The only guess that we can make with any degree of probability, is that it had an ornament to which the builders both of the Early English and Decorated periods were greatly indebted for the marvellous effect of the exteriors of their edifices—a lofty spire at the junction of the transept with the nave and choir. Thus much the Common Seal of the Priory would suggest, in which one of the two Apostles to whom the House was dedicated is represented holding such a church in his right hand. The domestic portion of the Priory, too, was certain to be a collection of goodly edifices. Mention has already been made of the Chapter House; but of quiet cloister and lordly refectory, scriptorium, guest-house, infirmary, and dormitory, the record is gone, we fear, for ever. And yet all were assuredly splendid of their kind, as the home of a community wealthy and powerful, and the frequent resort of the noble and renowned. The Lord Prior and his Canons often found themselves surrounded by personages of public importance in Church and State; and their lodging and cheer were doubtless agreeable to their condition, and indicative of that spirit of liberal

COWELL'S ANASTATIC PRESS, IPSWICH

The Priory Barn Mansion.

hospitality which the rule alike of Religion and of their Order did so much to foster.

There can be little doubt that the great entrance gateway of the Monastery was in Canon Street, so called after the dignitaries of the House, and in which the massive foundations of ancient edifices, not improbably belonging to them, have repeatedly been discovered. How far the buildings extended towards the east and south we have no means of knowing, save by the indications already referred to. There is, however, on the left hand of the visitor as he enters the fields, a large and picturesque barn, containing some work of the sixteenth century, but in which have been inserted by the questionable dictate of modern taste, several ornamental details of uncertain derivation. [*See the Plates.*] This may be taken as the limit of the Conventual buildings in the northern direction.

Notwithstanding the silence of historians and the absence of manuscript authority on the subject, it is next to certain that the Conventual Church, like multitudes of similar structures, was a favourite place of sepulture. The only asserted instance which I have met with is unfortunately founded on error. It is that of Jasper Tudor, duke of Bedford and earl of Pembroke, the half brother of King Henry VI., who died in 1497, and, by his will, dated the 15th of December, 1495, is said to have ordered his body to be interred in this monastery, and also that a monument should be erected over it, and that forty pounds a year should be paid out of his lands for four priests to pray for ever for the health of his soul, and for the souls of his father, of Katharine, sometime Queen of England, his mother, of Edmund, earl of Richmond, his brother, and of all other his predecessors.* It was Keynsham, however, and not Taunton, which was thus selected.

* Dugd. Bar. II., 242.

It may be well to remove another error, which is more or less prevalent in the neighbourhood, namely, that the Church of S. James was the old Church of the Priory. S. James's was a chapelry of the Vicarage of S. Mary Magdalene, and was not made a distinct and independent Parish until some time subsequent to the Dissolution. Its truly venerable and stately Tower,—which in real dignity, simple sublimity, and architectural excellence far surpasses in the judgment of the writer its later and more pretentious neighbour, magnificent as that was, which has recently been demolished,—yet happily endures to inspire men with respect for the ability of their forefathers, and, although it has no claim to be considered the appendage of the grand and sumptuous Conventual Church, should be loved and guarded as a priceless treasure, all the more invaluable from its now standing alone.

If we regard the influence of the place, as a member of the vast ecclesiastical establishment of the land, we may trace numerous evidences of the exercise of a power the very reverse of contemptible. The Priors of the House were among the foremost of their fellows. As we have repeatedly observed in the previous pages, they bore their share and played their part in the great events of a series of generations, and those among some of the grandest and most interesting in our national annals. It appears that they were usually elected from the superior officers of the community. At the resignation, for example, of Prior Walter de Grateley, John de Kyngesbury his successor was Subprior, and Walter Cook who followed him was cellarer. The election was always conducted with great regularity. After the burial of the deceased Prior, the patron was solicited to issue his licence for the choice of a successor. This obtained, the Convent proceeded to their solemn

duty. The mass de Spiritu Sancto was celebrated in their Conventual Church, after which the Canons were summoned to the Chapter House. The patron's letter was then read, the votes were taken, and, on the majority being declared, Te Deum was sung, the elect was conducted to the high altar, and his election solemnly declared. The confirmation of him by the Bishop to his dignity followed shortly after, and his conventual reign began.

It will not be amiss, as the detail has been so considerable, if I place before the reader in a consecutive series a list of the Priors, referring him for further particulars to our previous pages. I am happy to add—although I have not usually drawn attention to the wholesale omissions and errors of the few previous writers on this strangely overlooked and forgotten House—that several of these dignitaries now find their place in the assemblage for the first time.

1. Stephen occurs as a witness in documents of 1159, 1174, 1189, &c.

2. Robert, in a document of 1197.

3. John, in documents of 1204, &c.

4. John, in documents of 1313 and 1314.

5. Stephen de Picoteston died in 1325.

6. Ralph de Culmstock was elected on the 6th, received assent on the 11th, and was confirmed Prior on the 23rd of January, 1326; was one of the sub-collectors of the Tenths, 1330; was commissioned to purify his church, 1332; was summoned to the council in London, 1332; was appointed a collector of the Tenths, 1334; and resigned office on the 22nd of March, 1339.

7. Robert de Messingham was elected on the 19th of April, 1339; and died in March, 1346.

8. Thomas Cok was elected on the 30th of March,

received assent on the 4th of April, and did homage on the 16th of June, 1346 ; and was cited to the church of S. Mary le Bow on the 21st of July, 1353.

9. Thomas de Pederton died in November, 1361.

10. Walter de Grateley received assent on the 17th of January, 1362 ; and resigned office on the 29th of December, 1377.

11. John de Kyngesbury was elected in April, and received assent on the 1st of May, 1378 ; and died on the 5th of November, 1391.

12. Walter Coke was elected on the 21st and received assent on the 27th of November, 1391 ; occurs in 1406 ; and died in January, 1408.

13. Robert Newton was elected on the 18th, and confirmed Prior on the 31st of January, 1408 ; occurs in 1409 ; and died on the 12th of August, 1413.

14. Thomas de Ufcolme was elected on the 1st, and confirmed Prior on the 2nd of September, 1413 ; was summoned to convocation in November, 1415 ; and presented a clerk to Clannaborough, on the 5th of October, 1429.

15. Thomas Benet was summoned to convocation in 1438.

16. Richard Glene occurs in June, 1449 ; was summoned to convocation the same year; presented a clerk to Lydiard S. Laurence, 1470 ; and died on the 31st of January, 1476.

17. John Asshe was nominated his successor on the 27th of February, and received assent on the 17th of March, 1476.

18. John Prous occurs Prior in 1492 and 1497 ; received permission from Pope Alexander VI. to use the pontifical insignia, on the 4th of May, 1499 ; was presented to Lydeyard S. Laurence in 1502 ; presented clerks to S.

Mary Magdalene and Ninehead, 1508; was summoned to convocation, 1509; resigned office on the 3rd of February, 1514; and died, 1519.

19. Nicholas Peper was elected on the 23rd of February, 1514; was summoned to convocation the same year; was again summoned to convocation, 1515; presented a clerk to Thurloxton in August, 1523; and died on the 26th of the following September.

20. William Yorke was nominated Prior on the 19th of November, 1523.

21. William Wyllyams, or Andrewes, was the last Prior, of whom more will be detailed presently.

In 1377, John de Kyngesbury was Sub-prior, Walter Cook was Cellarer, Peter Ilmynstre was Sacristan, and John Cley was Precentor.

In continuation of these registers, and again referring the reader to previous pages for the various details, we notice that the Incumbents presented by the Prior and Convent to their benefices may be classed as follows. The lists, though necessarily imperfect, are valuable so far as they extend.

Incumbents of Taunton S. Mary Magdalene :—Simon de Lym, 1308; Richard de Poterne, 1322; Robert Pippecote, 1346; William atte Stone, 1349; Hugh Thomas, ——; William Bury, 1508. William atte Halle was Curate of S. James's and Stapelgrove, in 1353; and Richard Pomerey was Chaplain of S. Andrew's Chantry in the Church of S. Mary Magdalene, in 1444.

Incumbents of Kingston :—Richard de Pym, 1339; William de Ayssheleigh, 1344; Robert Good, ——; Richard Pleysse, 1511.

Incumbents of Lydiard S. Laurence :—Thomas de Columbrugg, ——; John de Kyngesbury, 1318; Simon de Fareweye, 1351; Thomas Drayton, ——; John Valens,

1452 (?); John Vowell, ——; John Prowse, 1502; John North, 1519; Robert Morwent, 1521.

Incumbents of Pitminster :—John Stede, 1341; Robert Cox, 1349; Richard Heryng, 1350; Simon de Cherde, 1351; Richard Mader, ——; William Mors, 1509; Thomas Wyse, 1520; James Henton, ——; William Wyneyard, 1527.

Incumbents of Dulverton :—Adam, ——; Thomas Flour, 1332; Hugh Lovegeer, 1349; John Edyngton, ——; Hugh Thomas, 1504; Peter Druet, 1508; William Bowreman, ——; John Slocock, 1524.

Incumbents of Combflory :—John de Kyngesbury, 1317; Thomas de Columbrugg, 1318; Geoffrey de Reyny, 1336; William de Modbury, 1349; John Prows, ——; John Baker, 1502; John Hyll, 1514.

Incumbents of Ninehead :—Richard le Bellringer, 1315; William Wysman, 1349; John Cryspyn, 1350; William Esch, 1350; William Donekyn, 1362; John Prous, ——; John Samson, 1501; John Trygge, 1507; Thomas Cokysden, 1508.

Incumbents of Thurloxton :—William de la Pytte, 1318; Gilbert, ——; Walter de Quenton, 1333; Reginald Marchall, 1347; Ralph Mareschal, 1349; William de Essch, 1362; John Symmys, ——; Thomas Symons, 1505; John Hogans, 1523; James Dowdyng, 1530.

Incumbents of Runnington :—William de Lydeford, ——; William Syward, 1326; John Cryspyn, 1349; William Wysman, 1350; William Wysman, 1362; John Newman, 1408; Robert Tedworth, ——; Robert Huet, 1522; John Hill, 1526.

The possessions of the Priory were for the most part in its immediate neighbourhood, a great portion of which was represented, as we have already noticed, in the pages of its

ample cartulary. Among the more distant, although situated in the same county, were the valuable manor of Dulverton, which has so often been the subject of remark, the vills of Broggelesnole and Levercote and the hamlets of Telchete and la Merse, mentioned in the Perambulation of the Forest of Exmore, dated on the 22nd of March, 1342,* and the lands of Staverdale and Thorn-Coffin. In Devon there were the Churches of Willand and Clannaborough, and lands at Woodham, Godesaltr, Prior Merston, and Monksbeare. In Dorset there was Buckham-Weston. The whole constituted a spacious domain, the beauty and fertility of which it would have been hard to parallel.

With regard to the revenues of the House, which were proportionably considerable, some curious information may be offered. At the time of the Valor of Pope Nicholas IV., 1288-1291, the temporalties belonging to the Community within the Archdeaconry of Taunton were taxed, according to the Memoranda Roll of the 34th of Edward III., 1360, at cccxv*s.*; namely, Nyenhide, xxv*s.*; Spaxton, xiij*s.* 4*d.*; Dulverton, xxvj*s.*; Thornlockeston, lxx*s.* viij*d.*; Northperton, xx*s.*; Stoke, xxx*s.*; Westmonekton, x*s.*; Lydiard S. Laurence, xx*s.*; and Esse Prior's, c*s.* Some time subsequently a commission was issued, bearing date the 26th of January, 1341, and addressed to certain Assessors and Venditors, who were thereby instructed to levy the Ninth of corn, wool, and lambs in every parish, for the maintenance of the king's wars and the good keeping of his realm, according to the aforesaid Valor. They were directed to take inquisition upon oath of certain jurors resident in every parish as to the true value of the Ninth. The returns which they made state at the same time the

* Per. For. de Exmore, ad Adam. de Domerham, Hist. Glast. j. 193, 194.

amount of the former tax, and, if the Ninth did not equal that sum, the reason of such deficiency. In the roll just quoted, to which also reference has been cursorily made in a previous portion of this memoir, the Prior is recorded to have objected to the amount at which he was rated, which was no less than the sum of cix*s.* vij*d.* ob (halfpenny). Upon examination of the return, it was discovered that this amount was computed as follows :—Northcory, ij*s.* iiij*d.* ; Nyenhide, xiij*s.* iiij*d*; Bishop's Lydierd, vj*s.* viij*d.*; Spaxton, v*s.*; Dulverton, xij*s.*; Thorlokeston, xxvj*s.* viij*d.*; Pedirton, iiij*s.*; Stokepire, v*s.* vj*d.* ; Monketon, xij*s.* vj*d.*; Lydierd S. Laurence, xj*s.* vij*d.* ob.; Esse Prior's, x*s.* Reference was then made to the roll of the 20th of Edward I., or the Taxation of Pope Nicholas, and the temporalties were stated as there set forth ; when it appeared that the Prior and his predecessors paid a Tenth for all and singular of these temporalties. It did not, however, appear that the Prior had then any temporalties taxed in Northcory and Bishop's Lydiard. Accordingly, he stated his willingness to pay the sum demanded of ix*s.* on these two properties, but that he had no others on which an assessment might lawfully be made. After a lengthened investigation, the Prior appeared in Easter Term in the Court of Exchequer, when an inquisition was exhibited, taken at Somerton in the presence of the said Prior by John de Hundesmore his attorney, on the Monday in the fifth week in Lent, 1361, in which the jurors on their oath declared that the Prior had no other temporalties save those which had been in the possession of his House in the year 1291, and which were then taxed, except one carucate of land and a rent of fifty shillings with its appurtenances in Dulverton, which Prior Robert de Messingham (or Cressingham) had purchased for himself and his successors ; that the value of the

Ninth from that property was xl*d.*; and that Monketon and Westmonekton, Pedirton and Northperton, and Stoke Pirye and Stoke, were respectively two names for one and the same place. It was thereupon decided that the Prior should pay the aforesaid sums of ix*s.* for Northcory and Bishop's Lydeyerd, and of xl*d.* for Dulverton, and that he should be relieved and quit of the further demand of iiij*li.* xvij*s.* iij*d.* ob., at which he had been illegally assessed.*

These notices furnish us among other information both with the relative value of the estates at one and the same time, and with their comparative value at different periods.

Monastic annals are by no means silent in regard of those who bore the name of the House, either perhaps from some early connection with it, or from having been born in the adjoining town. William de Tanton was Prior of Winchester in 1249; John de Tanton was Canon of Wells, 1247; Gilbert de Tanton was Almoner of Glastonbury, 1274; John de Taunton was at the same time Abbat of Glastonbury; Walter de Tanton was Abbat of Glastonbury, 1322; John de Tanton was vicar of Northcory, 1328; Robert de Tanton was prebendary of Wivelescomb in the Church of Wells, 1333; Nicholas de Tanton was vicar of Brompton Regis, 1348; and John de Taunton was Abbat of Cirencester, in 1440. This list could be greatly extended if necessary. But it is more than sufficient to show that ecclesiastics who were connected, as at least is probable, with the Priory or the town, attained during a long series of years to some of the highest dignities which this and other dioceses included within their pale.

That one of the accomplishments of a monastery here

* Memorand. Rot. 34 Edw. III. Trin.

flourished in perfection, it is probable that I possess a very interesting proof. I have in my collection a Psalter, with a litany of the Saints and other prayers, written in the latter part of the thirteenth or the beginning of the fourteenth century, most beautifully executed and undoubtedly by an English scribe. A calendar is prefixed, singularly valuable, together with the litany, for the number of English Saints which it records. Nearly at the end of the book, which is of what would now be called small duodecimo size, and has two hundred and forty three leaves, is an illumination consisting of a scroll on which is inscribed "Jon Taunton. MS." It is not unlikely that this charming volume, unless it were the work of the famous Abbat of Glastonbury himself, who was a great lover of books, was produced in the scriptorium of Taunton Priory; and, if so, the House had no reason to be ashamed of its penman. That the community were possessed of a library of some importance is evident from the fact that Leland, who visited the Priory within a short period of the suppression, although, as usual, he is unhappily silent about the edifice itself, noticed three uncommon books in the collection of the Canons, the "Chronicon Ivonis," "Philaretus de Pulsibus," and "Theophilus de Urinis,"* representatives of the literature and science of the mediæval age.

I am also in possession of a very interesting relic which was found about thirty-five years ago, during the process of removing an accumulation of mud in the bed of the Tone, within a few hundred yards from the site of the Priory, and which has been in my custody for the far greater part of the intervening period. It is a leaden bulla of Pope Sixtus IV., who occupied the chair of S.

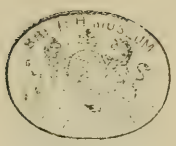
* Lel. Collect., tom. III., p. 153.

BULLA OF POPE SIXTUS IV

(Actual Size.)

Found in the River Tone near Taunton Priory.

NATURAL HISTORY



GIRDLE ORNAMENT.

(Actual Size.)

Found on the site of Taunton Priory.

KNIFE HANDLE.

(Actual Size.)

Found on the site of Taunton Priory.

Peter from 1471 to 1484, and was originally attached to a document not improbably addressed to Taunton Priory or its Prior. [*See the engraving.*] On the purport of the missive it would of course be vain to speculate.

For another object of interest connected with the House I have to thank my old friend Henry Norris, Esq., late of South Petherton, who most kindly presented it to me. It is a brass ornament which formed the termination of a leathern girdle, and is a work of the fifteenth century. On one side are the words ꝑe mercy, and on the other lady helpe. It was found on the site of the Priory in the year 1812, and was sold at the time of its discovery to his learned father. [*See the figures.*] About the same time and in the same locality was found the haft of a knife in morse-ivory, which was similarly offered for sale and is at present also in my possession. It is of the latter part of the fifteenth century, and consists of a group of three figures, probably intended for Faith, Hope, and Justice, which are surmounted by a couchant lion. Faith is represented with a staff, Hope with an anchor and a bird, and Justice with a sword and a pair of scales. [*See the figures.*] During the last ten years a few coins have been offered to me for sale, with the special recommendation of having been discovered on the same site, or in the immediate neighbourhood, comprising pennies of Henry II., Edward III., and Richard II., and a groat and shilling of Henry VIII. These, however, as it was well known that I was interested in the locality, and as the circumstances of the alleged discoveries were not free from suspicion, I receive with considerable hesitation, and tender a word of caution to those of my readers to whom similar objects may hereafter be exhibited.

Up to this period we have seen the noble House which

is the subject of our present research rising hastily during the first part of its existence into a position of wealth and power, and then for a series of generations dispensing with a high and liberal hand the manifold blessings of which it was the favoured depository. Age after age it has been entering into the ecclesiastical life of England, an integral portion of the mighty whole, and making its presence felt in conformity with the great purposes for which it had received its being. A change has now arrived. By this time Taunton had received its last Prior, and the House its last legitimate master. From this point, then, the spectator must be invited to look upon a far different picture. There is from the nature of things an unhappy necessity forced upon the writer, who endeavours to rescue from oblivion the annals of any one of our old Religious Houses. The histories which are the result of such reverent care differ oftentimes in all possible ways, so far as the records of good deeds can be unlike each other; but the last chapter of the tale, the last fearful scene, is the same in all. The same demoniac passions, the same sacrilegious wills, the same accursed hands, prompted the outrage and perpetrated the crime. Glastonbury, and Taunton, and Muchelney, and Cleeve, and Buckland, and Crewkerne, and Montacute, and Athelney, and hundreds of others—all tell of the same remorseless tyrant, the same fawning band of greedy courtiers, and the same atrocious spirit of wrong, robbery, and murder, all the more abominable and disgusting from the pretence of religion with which it was invested.

Little more than a year had elapsed after the annexation of Staverdale to Taunton, when the opposition of the clergy to the king's matrimonial speculations brought about the severance of the Anglican Church from the spiritual

supremacy of the See of Rome. Inasmuch as the Pope refused to sanction the divorce of the monarch's outraged wife, and to permit him to elevate one of her waiting-women to her place, Henry, who appeared to think that every thing whether of heaven or earth was created solely for his peculiar gratification, resolved to break off all connexion with him, and to declare himself pope within his own unhappy dominions. We shall entirely miss the real meaning of the affair unless we keep this circumstance prominently in view. It was for his own loathsome purposes that his public acts were originated and carried out. The great body of the clergy, who were known to be antagonistic to his wishes, was therefore to be coerced into seeming approval, and the statute which declared the Royal Supremacy was the instrument by which it was effected. The clauses of the declaration which the Religious Houses were called upon to make distinctly prove that the confirmation of the divorce was the leading result intended, and that the renunciation of the pope was a childish act of mere retaliation for his opposition to the despot's will. The declaration itself was a carefully prepared document, a blank form of which was carried to every community, with spaces left for the insertion of the name and style of the particular House, and room at the conclusion for the signatures of the brethren. It sets out with some fulsome assertions of their duty to the unscrupulous sovereign who so little regarded his duty to them, and of the sincere, entire, and perpetual devotion, faith, observance, honor, worship, and reverence which they were prepared most willingly to render to him. It then proceeds to announce that the Heads of the House in question with one mouth, voice, and unanimous consent and assent, profess, attest, and faithfully promise and vow for them-

selves and their successors, all and singular, that they will pay entire, inviolate, sincere, and perpetual fidelity, observance and obedience to the king and to Anne the queen his wife, and to his offspring by the same Anne then begotten or to be so : that they will at all possible times notify the same to the people : that Henry is the head of the Church of England : that the Bishop of Rome is to be considered of no higher dignity than any other bishop in his own diocese : that no one either in private or in public assemblies, or in his prayers, shall call the Bishop of Rome by the title of pope or supreme pontiff, but by the name of the Bishop of Rome or of the Roman Church : that the laws and decrees of the king shall be maintained, and that those of the Bishop of Rome shall be renounced : that the Catholic and Orthodox faith shall be duly preached : that in public prayers mention shall first be made of the king, as the supreme head of the Church of England, then of Queen Anne with her family, and lastly of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, with the other orders of the clergy : concluding with an oath of obligation and faithful and perpetual observance of all and singular the matters aforesaid.

Such was the compulsory and unsparing declaration. It was made in the Chapter House of Taunton Priory, and sealed with the common seal, on the 15th of September, 1534, in the 26th year of "the most invincible prince Henry VIII." In the attesting witnesses, fifteen in number, we are furnished with the names of the entire community. They were William Wyllyams, Prior, William Gregory, Sub-prior, Antony Whytt, William Bayle, Nicholas Beram, Thomas Dale, John Heyward, William Culron, John Cokeram, John Dyght, John Warryn, Richard Fynsham, William Cobock, William Brynchmede, and William

NATURAL HISTORY

SEAL OF TAUNTON PRIORY.

(Actual Size.)

From an Impression attached to the Surrender in the Augmentation Office.

Bleche.* An impression in red wax is appendant of the Common Seal of the Priory. It is of early character, of the vesica form, and represents the Apostles SS. Peter and Paul standing under crocketed canopies with a diapered background. The architectural peculiarities are indicative of the age of Edward I., and therefore exactly harmonize with those which prevailed at the period of the erection of the Conventual Church. The Apostles are represented with their characteristic insignia, the former with his keys in his left, and a church, to which reference has already been made, in his right hand, and the latter with his sword. The legend reads, S. SCORU. APOSTOLOR. PET * * * T. PAULI. * ANTONIESIS. C * * * * *.—Sigillum Sanctorum Apostolorum Petri et Pauli Tantoniensis Ecclesiæ. *(See the figure.)*

The declaration of the king's supremacy was the first step towards the spoliations that ensued. The tyrant discovered his power and acted accordingly. Those that refused the declaration, as Bp. Fisher, Sir Thomas More and others, were sent to the block or the halter, and those who complied with it were but reserved for future vengeance. Things did not, indeed could not, long remain as they were. To enable the king to maintain his position as "supreme head on earth of the Church of England," it was presently enacted that every possessor of any ecclesiastical dignity, office or place should surrender to him the first-fruits, revenues and profits for one year, and, further, should pay to him every year a tenth of all his revenues, emoluments and profits, and that the first payment should be made at the Feast of the Nativity, 1535. Hereupon Commissioners were appointed by Parliament to enquire

* Ex Autograph. in Off. Rec. olim Augment.

into and report upon the value of all ecclesiastical possessions throughout the country. This was promptly carried into effect, and the returns which were made by these officers constitute the well-known "Valor Ecclesiasticus," in which they were digested and presented to both houses.

The "Valor" of Taunton Priory furnishes us with a complete view of the possessions of the House immediately before the suppression. It shows also what sums were paid to various clerical and lay persons, bailiffs, sheriffs, auditors, and other civil officers, the charges due to the chief Lords, the amount spent in alms by reason of any foundation or ordinance, with the names of the parties so commemorated, &c. We are thus presented with a most lively picture of the rights on the one hand and the liabilities on the other of one of the greater monasteries during its last few years of place and power.

As the return is necessarily of so great importance and interest, I have thought proper to give it in translation, and with its minute details more intelligibly represented than as they stand in the original. The amounts, however, still figure in their ancient form, as I was unwilling to modernize my authority when there was little or nothing to be gained by the alteration. In studying the account we should not forget either the easy terms which monastic tenants notoriously enjoyed, or the immense increase in the value of property from those times to our own, considerations of the greatest importance in enabling us to arrive at a due appreciation of the position of the House. It may also be premised that the record includes not only the possessions already noticed as donations to the Priory at various earlier periods, but those also which were lately added by the union with it of the Priory of Staverdale.

HOUSE AND PRIORY OF TAUNTON.

Declaration of the Extent and Annual Value of all and singular the Lands, and Tenements, and other Possessions, with the Tithes, Oblations, and all other Issues of the divers Benefices and Chapels belonging and appropriated to the aforesaid Priory, in the time of William Andrewes, now Prior thereof.

ESSE.—(Ash Priors.)

Value in assized Rents of the Customary Tenants	vij^{li} iij^{s} ix^{d}		
Demesne Lands ..	x^{li} iij^{s} ij^{d}	xvj^{li} xviij^{s} xj^{d}	
Out of this a rent, annually,			
To William Frances	vij^{s}		xx^{li} xj^{s} xj^{d}
To the Lord of the Manor of Bp's Lydeyarde	xij^{d}		
So now clear			
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties, in common years,		xxx^{s}	
Fines of lands		xliij^{s}	

WESTOWE.

Assized Rents of the Customary Tenants ..	lxxj^{s} vj^{d}		
Demesne Lands ..	xlix^{s} x^{d}		
Out of this, annually,			
To the turn of the Sheriff of Somerset ..	xij^{d}	cxviij^{s} iiij^{d}	vij^{li} xj^{s} viij^{d}
To the Lord of the Hundred of Williton	ij^{s}		
So now clear			
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		iij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Fines of lands		xxx^{s}	

MIDDELTON.

Rents both of Free and of Customary Tenants	lxij^{s} vj^{d}	
Demesne Lands ..	xij^{s}	
Demesne Lands in the hand of the Lord	x^{li}	xj^{li} xiiij^{s} vj^{d}
Out of this, The fee of Stephen Stroude, bailiff of the same ..	xl^{s}	
So now clear		xij^{li} –^{s} xiiij^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		vj^{s} viij^{d}

WILLOND.

Assized Rents of the Customary Tenants	vij^{li} ix^{s} x^{d}	
Demesne Lands	vij^{li} xviij^{s} iiij^{d}	xv^{li} iiij^{s} vij^{d}
Out of this annually, To the Lord of the Manor of Holberton	iij^{s} vij^{d}	
So now clear		xviij^{li} iij^{s} vij^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		ix^{s}
Fines of Lands		l^{s}

THURLOXSTON.

Value in Rents of Free as of Customary Tenants ..	ix^{li} –^{s} xx^{d} ob.
Demesne Lands	cxiiij^{s} ob.
Out of which there is an annual payment, To the Master of the Hospital of Brygewater	xij^{s}
	xiiij^{li} ij^{s} iij^{d}

To the turn of the Sheriff of Somerset	iij^{d}	xviij^{li} ij^{s} viij^{d}
To the Lord of the Hundred of Androyfelde ..	xij^{d}	
To the Lord of the Manor of Dunster	iij^{d}	
So now clear		
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties	xx^{s}	
Fines of lands	lx^{s} iiij^{d}	

BLACKEDON.

Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants	iiij^{li} xvij^{d} ob.	cix^{s} ix^{d} ob.
Demesne Lands	xxvij^{s}	
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties ..	xvj^{d}	

TOBRUGGE.

Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants	cxiiij^{s} x^{d}	vj^{li} xix^{s} v^{d}
Demesne Lands	xxiij^{s} iij^{d}	
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties	xvj^{d}	

DULVERTON DEMESNE.

Assised Rents of the Free as of the Customary Tenants ..	vij^{li} v^{s} x^{d}	xlvij^{s} iiij^{d}
Demesne lands	vij^{li} iiij^{s} ix^{d}	
Out of which, annually,		
To the Lord of Dunster ..	xiij^{d}	
To the Lord of Hawkerige	ij^{s} ij^{d}	
A pension to the Prior of Bustelham Mountegue	vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	

A pension to a chantry priest of Donyatte ..	lxvj^{s} viij^{d}	
The fee of William Glosse, bailiff of the same ..	xl^{s}	

So now clear

DULVERTON PARSONAGE.

Assised Rents of the Free as of Customary Tenants, clear		xj^{li} iiij^{s} v^{d}

DULVERTON BAILIWICK.

Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants ..	xl^{s} xj^{d}	l^{s} xj^{d}	xij^{li} ii^{s} xj^{d}
Demesne Lands ..	x^{s}		
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		lx^{s}	
Fines of lands		vj^{li} xij^{s}	

PIXSTON.

Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants ..	c^{s} vj^{d}	xiiij^{li} xviij^{s} x^{d}	xv^{li} ij^{s} ij^{d}
Demesne Lands	x^{li}		
Out of which annually, To the Bp. of Winchester, a chief rent, ..	xij^{d}		
To the Abbat of Glastonbury ..	viij^{d}		
So now clear			
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		iij^{s} iiij^{d}	

TAUNTON EXTRA PORTAM.

Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants	xij^{li} vij^{s} x^{d} ob.	xiij^{li} xiiij^{s} vj^{d} ob.
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties	vj^{s} viij^{d}	
Fines of lands ..	xx^{s}	

CANON STREET.

Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants	xxvij^{li} xij^{s} vj^{d}	xxviij^{li}		xxx^{li} xii^{s}
Sale of works ..	vij^{s} vj^{d}			
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		xxx^{s}		
Fines of lands		xxij^{s}		

FONS GEORGIJ.—(Wilton).

Rents of the Customary Tenants ..	lix^{s}	iiij^{li}	xxij^{d}	iiij^{li} v^{s} ij^{d}
Sale of works ..	xxij^{s} x^{d}			
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		iij^{s} iiij^{d}		

GAULDON.

Rents of the Customary Tenants, with works	vj^{li} x^{s} vj^{d}	x^{li} v^{s} v^{d}		x^{li} viij^{s} ix^{d}
Demesne Lands ..	iiij^{li}			
Out of which, annually, To the Lord of the Manor of Pyligh, a chief rent	v^{s} j^{d}			
So now clear				
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		iij^{s} iiij^{d}		

THURLEBERE.

Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants		iiij^{li}	j^{d}	iiij^{li} xv^{s} j^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		xx^{d}		
Fines of lands		xiij^{s} iiij^{d}		

KYNGISHILL.

Rents of the Free as of the Customary Tenants		xliij^{s}	ij^{d}	xlij^{s} x^{d}
Out of which, annually, To the Lord of Strengiston for a chief rent	iiij^{d}			
So now clear				

WHITEHULL.—(Withiel.)

Rents of the Customary Tenants, clear .. xxxj^{s}

STAFFORDELL.

Annual Rent of the farm of the Manor, as by the Indenture of Nicholas Fitz-James .. .. c^{s}

WYNCAULTON.

Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants viij^{li} viij^{s} j^{d}
Out of which, annually,
To the Lord Henry Daubeny .. x^{d}
So now clear viij^{li} vij^{s} iij^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties .. .. vj^{s} viij^{d}
Fines of lands .. .. xx^{d}
viij^{li} xv^{s} vij^{d}

RUNDEHILL.

Assised Rent of the firm of the Manor ix^{li}
Out of which, annually,
To the turn of the Sheriff of Somerset xv^{d}
A chief rent to John Boneham, Esq. iij^{s}
A chief rent to the heirs of Chalket for land in Cleyanger .. xij^{d}
So now clear viij^{li} xiiij^{s} ix^{d}

BAROW.

Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants viij^{li} vj^{s} vj^{d}
Out of which, annually,
To the Lord Abbat of Glastonbury, for lands in Batcombe .. xiiij^{d}
To the heirs of Rodney for land in Lovyngton xvij^{d}
So now clear viij^{li} iij^{s} xj^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties .. .. v^{s}
viij^{li} viij^{s} xj^{d}

BRUETON.

Rents of Free and of Customary Tenants	xij^{li} xiij^{s} v^{d}		
Out of which, annually,			
To the Lord of the Hundred of Cattisaishe, as for a chief rent ..	xviij^{d}		
To the Abbat of Bruton	xij^{d}		
To the Lord of Norton Farrys	xij^{d}		
To the Lord Henry Daubeny, for a chief rent	xij^{d}	x^{li} viij^{s} xj^{d}	x^{li} xix^{s} xj^{d}
for land in Bryggewater	xij^{d}		
For the fee of Egidius Slade, steward of the same	xx^{s}		
For the fee of William Love, bailiff of the same	xx^{s}		
So clear			
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties		ix^{s} iiij^{d}	
Fines of lands		xx^{d}	

THORNECOFFYN.

Rents of free and of Customary Tenants, per annum, clear	iiij^{li} iiij^{d}

RENTS OF CERTAIN PARCELS OF LAND.

For one burgage in Langporte ..	v^{s}	
Of certain Tenements in Athelbury	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Certain rents in Canon Street ..	xxxiij^{s}	
Caplond	xx^{s}	
Grassecrofte	xxx^{s}	
Next the Chapel, Taunton ..	xj^{s} iiij^{d}	viij^{li} ij^{s} iiij^{d}
Oldeclyff	v^{s}	

Plaistrete	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Briggewater	iiij^{s}	
Taunton	xiiij^{s}	
Certain Rent of John Alwyn ..	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	

RECEIPTS.

For a certain annual rent from the Lord of the Manor of Hockecombe	xx^{d}	
For a similar rent from the Vicarage of Kyngeston	xv^{s}	
For a similar rent from the Rectory of Clowyngborow ..	iiij^{s}	iiij^{li} v^{s} viij^{d}
From the Rector of Orchard, for a similar rent	v^{s}	
From the Vicarage of Dulverton, for a similar rent	lx^{s}	

DEMESNE LANDS NEXT THE PRIORY HOUSE.

From the Issues and Annual Value of certain Demesne Lands, in the Lord's hand, and lying by and about the Priory House, by the oath of four honest and lawful men	cxj^{s} ix^{d}

SALE OF THE TITHES OF GRAIN AND MEADOWS, AS BELOW.

Tithes of Corn of Kyngeston and Cothelston	xiiij^{li}	
Tithes of Corn of Hamwode, parcel of the Parish of Trull ..	vij^{li}	xvj^{d}
Pallyngisfelde and Holeford ..	c^{s}	
Wyncaulton	viij^{li}	
Nynehed	vj^{li}	xvij^{s}
Dulverton	xij^{li}	x^{s}
Tithes of Meadows of Langford and Cleyhill	ij^{s}	lxiiij^{li} x^{s} ij^{d}

Tithes of the Meadows of Robert At-mershe ..			xiiij^{d}
Tithes of Corn of Thurlebere	ix^{li}	vj^{s}	viij^{d}
Tithes of the Rectory of Oterforde			xxxij^{s}
In all			

ISSUES AND PROFITS OF THE TITHES OF GRAIN, WITH OTHER TITHES AND CASUALTIES OF CHAPELS, AS BELOW.

The Tithes of Grain of the Parish of S. Mary Magdalene, with the Oblations and other casualties ..	xxxj^{li}	xij^{s}	xj^{d}	
The Tithes of Grain of Corffe, Pitmyster, and Trull, with the Oblations and other casualties	xij^{li}	iij^{s}	v^{d}	
The Tithes of Grain of the Parish of S. James's and Stapulgrave, with the Oblations and other casualties	xiiij^{li}	ix^{s}	xj^{d}	
The Tithes of Grain of Whitehull, with the Oblations and other casualties ..	ix^{li}	vj^{s}	iiij^{d}	
The Tithes of Grain of Esse, with the Oblations and other casualties	vij^{li}	xiij^{s}	v^{d}	cxij^{li} xiij^{s} j^{d}
The Tithes of Grain of Trulle, with the Oblations and other casualties	vj^{li}		ix^{d}	
The Tithes of Grain of [Bishop's] Hulle, with the Oblations and other casualties	xvj^{li}	xv^{s}	vj^{d}	

The Tithes of Grain of Russheton, with the Oblations and other casualties ...	x^li xvij^s iij^d	
The Tithes of Grain of Wilton, with the Oblations and other casualties	lxxiij^s vij^d	
In all		
Sum total of the value as well of all the Temporals as of the Spirituals aforesaid		cccxxxviij^li viij^s x^d

From this are to be deducted,

ALLOWANCES, PENSIONS, AND STIPENDS, AS BELOW.

For a perpetual annual Pension to the Vicar of Taunton ...	xx^li	
For the Stipends of divers Chaplains serving the Chapels, as above,—namely		
To John Selake, chaplain of Esse	cxiij^s iiij^d	
To John Sabbyn, chaplain of Trull	vj^li xiij^s iiij^d	
To John Hare, chaplain of Hill Bishop's	vj^li	
To John Stotte, chaplain of Russheton and Stoke ...	vj^li xiij^s iiij^d	
To John Baillyff, chaplain of Corffe	c^s	iiij^xx iij^li
To Thomas Cocks, chaplain of Wilton	c^s	
To William Badcock, chaplain of S. James's	vj^li xiij^s iiij^d	
To Humfrey Bradley, chaplain of Whitehull	cvj^s viij^d	
To two Chaplains serving in the Church of Staffordell, according to the Ordination of William Yorke, late Prior of Taunton	xvj^li	

PAYMENTS.

To the Church of Wells, as for an annual Pension from Staffordell	xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
To the Archdeacon of Taunton, for the rent of the aforesaid Churches and Chapels, annually	x^{s} iij^{d}	
To the same, for procurations of the said Churches ...	l^{s} vij^{d}	
An annual payment to the Rector of Hidon ...	xj^{s} vij^{d}	
And Mouncketon, for a certain annual rent	vj^{s} viij^{d}	
To the Bp. of Bath, for procurations	xxij^{s}	
To the Bp. of Winchester, annually, for a chief rent of land in Grassecroft ...	vij^{s}	viij^{li} v^{s} viij^{d}
Baldewynsmede ...	vj^{s} viij^{d}	
Kyngishill ...	iiij^{d}	
and Tolond ...	ij^{s}	
To the Archdeacon of Wells, annually, for procurations of the Church of Wyncaulton	ix^{s} x^{d} ob'	
To the Bp. of Bath, for a certain rent issuing from the Rectory of Wyncaulton	iij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Annual payment to the heirs of Beaumont as for a chief rent	ij^{s}	

Alms, from Ordinations and Founders.

In alms distributed, namely every Friday iij^{s} iiij^{d}, to the poor, according to the Ordination of Bp. Henry Blesans, per annum ...	viij^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
On the anniversary of the said Henry, in four quarterly payments of xiiij^{s} ij^{d} each	lvj^{s} viij^{d}	
In alms given to the poor by the Ordination of William Gyfford, some time Bp. of Winchester, namely every Sunday xiiij^{d} ...	lx^{s} viij^{d}	
On the anniversary of Thomas Bekyngton, some time Bp. of Winchester	xxxix^{s} iiij^{d}	
According to the Ordination of John Aisshe of Staffordell	liij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Of the gifts of divers others, viz.		xlj^{li} ix^{s}
Sir William Bondevyle ...	xxx^{s}	
Thomas Mawdelyn, clerk ...	vj^{s} viij^{d}	
Margery Froment, widow ...	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
John Prescote	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Walter Dowlynge ...	xxxiiij^{s} viij^{d}	
John Tose	xviij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Roger Hill	xxj^{s}	
To seven poor persons residing near the Priory House, yearly ...	xxxiiij^{s}	
To four of the poor of Staffordell, by the Ordination of John Lord Zouche, John Lord Storton, William Yorke late Prior of Taunton, with others	xij^{li} iiij^{s}	
On the anniversary of Baldowin, some time Bp. of Winchester, and on Maunday Thursday	xx^{s} iiij^{d}	

SALARIES.

For the Salary of Sir Nicholas Wadam, Chief Steward of the Possessions aforesaid ...	cvj^{s} viij^{d}	xix^{li} v^{s} iiij^{d}
For the Salary of Roger Yorke, Sergeant at law and Steward of the Manor of Staffordell with its members under the Conventual Seal	iiij^{li}	
For the Salary of John Sooper, Auditor of the Possessions aforesaid	lxvj^{s} viij^{d}	
For the Salaries of divers officials, bailiffs, or collectors of certain rents, viz., Taunton Extra Portam, Canon Street, Staffordell, Fons Georgij, Gauldon, and other places, viz.,		
George Speake ...	lxvj^{s} viij^{d}	
Richard Grey ...	xl^{s}	
John Alford ...	xxv^{s} iiij^{d}	
Sum of the Allowances ...	clij^{li} —^{s} —^{d}	
And so now there remains clear after all deductions	cciiij^{xx}vj^{li} viij^{s} x^{d}	
The Tenth from thence ...	xxviij^{li} xij^{s} x^{d} ob' q'.*	

We have here a balance-sheet for every part of the property, an exact return of income and expenditure, giving us without difficulty and at a single glance the proceeds of the several estates, the deductions to which they were subject, and the surplus that, after all the issues were

* Val. Eccl., vol. I., pp. 168, 169, 170.

disbursed, still remained available for the provision and maintenance of the House.

In addition to the foregoing details the Valor furnishes us with the names of several other incumbents at the period of its formation, 1535.

William Bury was vicar of "Mawdelyn," which was valued at xx^{li} iij^{s} iiij^{d}.

In the same Church of S. Mary Magdalene there were several chantries, which are thus given, together with the names of their incumbents :—

The Chantry of the B. V. Mary—John Tuell.
„ S. Nicholas—Robert Bailliffe.
„ Jesus—John Wely.
„ S. Andrew—John Harvye.
„ Holy Trinity—Ralph Wylkyns.
„ ———— Alexander Magote.
„ S. Ethelreda—William Calowe.

At the same time Richard Jeffrey was Incumbent of Kyngeston with the Chapel of Cutston (Cothelstone), Edmund Turnor of Combefflory, Robert Morwent of Lydeard S. Laurence, John Marler of Nynehede, John Hill of Rownyngton, and William Wyneyard of Pytmyster.*

From our knowledge of the character of Henry, we may be well assured that the interval between the compilation of the Valor and the appropriation of the property which it represented was but a short and hardly perceptible step. As in a more ancient instance, the possession of the vineyard was too tempting an acquisition even for robbery and murder to offer any decided resistance to a tyrant's will. There was a difficulty, however, in his path which required some craft to overcome. And never was a more thoroughly

* Val. Eccl., vol. i., pp. 171, 172, 173.

diabolical mode employed to obtain a shameless end than that to which his agents had resort. Sir Thomas More was hardly laid in his bloody grave when the infamous Cromwell proposed and carried into effect a so-called Visitation of the Religious Houses. When the avowed object was plunder, when the visitors, who were perfectly cognizant of their master's design, were sent for the very purpose of bringing an evil report upon the places which they inspected, when their own advantage was in exact ratio to the degree of criminality which they should succeed in attaching to their victims, and when they were rewarded in proportion to the insolence of their language and the atrocity of their behaviour, we need not wonder at the manner in which they conducted themselves, or at the returns which they made. The marvel is not that many reports were condemnatory but that any were of a different complexion. The official account of the visitation of Taunton Priory is not known to exist, but the date of it may be said to be at length recovered. It was doubtless on the 7th of August, 1537, that the reprobate priest Dr. Layton, the ever-ready calumniator and false accuser, whose name I mention for the purpose of affixing to him the infamy that he deserves, made his appearance at the monastery. This, the reader will recollect, is the date endorsed on the bull of Pope Alexander VI. already referred to, which among other documents passed under his inspection. His report we know not; though from such an inquisitor it could hardly be expected to be favourable.

In the previous year and during the course of these last mentioned enquiries came the dissolution of the lesser monasteries. The King attempted to seduce the minds of the more conscientious into at least tacit acquiescence with his plans, by promising to create

new Bishopricks in several of the larger dioceses. Taunton among other places was selected for that honor. On the Patent Roll of the 29th of his reign is a mandate to Cranmer the Archbishop of Canterbury, setting forth that the Bishop of Bath and Wells had signified to him the need under which that diocese lay of an active Suffragan, and that he had presented to him two clerks, William Fynche late Prior of Bremar, and Richard Walshe Prior of the Hospital of S. John Baptist of Bridgewater, both in Priest's Orders, born in lawful matrimony, of lawful age, learned both in Spirituals and Temporals, and without Canonical impediment of any kind, one of whom he had humbly and devoutly supplicated that he would select for the high office. Further, that he, of his special grace and mere motion, nominated William Fynche, one of the aforesaid, to be Suffragan Bishop of Taunton, and that he gives and confers on him the style, title, and dignity of Suffragan Bishop. Finally, that he requires the Archbishop to consecrate the said William Fynche, thus nominated, and to confer on him Benediction, and all the Episcopal Insignia, and all and singular other things which it belonged to his Pastoral Office to confer. The missive was dated on the 25th of March, 1538.*

It is hardly necessary that I should inform my reader that William Fynche was the last as well as the first Bishop of Taunton.

The tempest was now all but come upon the greater and richer Houses, and the enemy waited but time and opportunity to accomplish the work on which he was bent. It is not my province, however, to dwell upon the general

* Pat. 29 Hen. VIII., p. 5, m. 23.

preliminaries of the sad tragedy. I must hasten to the point at which Taunton Priory once more enters upon the scene.

The efforts of the Commissioners had been specially directed to induce the occupants of the Religious Houses to make a voluntary surrender of their possessions. Two modes were adopted for this desired result. On the one hand they were allured to comply by the promise of pensions, and on the other endeavours were made to frighten them into acquiescence by threats of the exposure of imaginary offences, and of the punishment of evils which had no foundation save in the minds of the visitors themselves. Some were proof against both of these manœuvres, and them, by trumped up charges of treason, or by the assertion of the concealment of their most valuable property, which if true was perfectly justifiable, they mercilessly tortured to the death. It has struck multitudes in later times with wonder, that the shameless attack on the Religious Houses was attended with so much apparent success; and it has been oftentimes inferred that the aims of the king and his courtiers must have been warmly seconded by the acquiescing verdict of the people at large. The contrary of this is the truth. The people looked upon the scenes that were disgracing the land with horror, consternation, and loathing, and every here and there, as in the West of England itself, rose in rebellion against the tyrant and his myrmidons. Nor—and let us not forget this—could the attempt have been successful, had it not been for the want of concentrated effort on the part of the clergy themselves. Singly they strove, and singly they were of course overcome.

The storm at length burst upon Taunton. It was on the 12th of February, 1539, that the Prior and Canons

met in their Chapter House, and, in the presence of the Commissioner, John Tregonwell, unwillingly signed the instrument of Surrender. That it was done at the violation of every natural and reasonable feeling cannot, I presume, be questioned. It would indeed be impossible to frame a document, the terms of which could be more at variance with the minds of those who attached to it their hand and seal. Like the declaration of supremacy already described, it was prepared before-hand, with blank spaces reserved for the insertion of the name and style of the particular House for which it was made to serve, which in the present instance are supplied in a hand and with writing materials of a different kind. "To all the faithful in Christ," says this vile effusion, "to whom the present writing shall come, William Wyllyams, Prior of the Monastery or Priory of the blessed Apostles Peter and Paul of Taunton, in the county of Somerset, of the Order of S. Augustine, and the Convent of the same place, health eternal in the Lord. Know ye that we the aforesaid Prior and Convent, with unanimous assent and consent, &c., from certain just and reasonable causes"—which are, however, neglected to be stated—"specially moving our minds and consciences, have willingly and of our own accord given and conceded, and do by these presents give, concede, grant, and confirm to our most illustrious prince and lord Henry the Eighth, by the grace of God king of England and France, defender of the Faith, lord of Ireland, and on earth supreme head of the Church of England, the whole of our said Monastery or Priory of Taunton aforesaid, and also all and singular our manors, domains, messuages, gardens, curtilages, tofts, arable lands, and tenements, meadows, pastures, woods, underwoods, rents, reversions, services, mills, passages, knights' fees, wardships, natives, villans with their follow-

ers, commons, liberties, franchises, jurisdictions, offices, court-leets, hundreds, views of franc pledge, fairs, markets, parks, warrens, vivaries, waters, fisheries, ways, roads, void places, closes, advowsons, nominations, presentations and donations of churches, vicarages, chapels, chantries, hospitals and other ecclesiastical benefices of what kind soever, rectories, vicarages, chantries, pensions, portions, annuities, tenths, oblations, and all and singular our emoluments, fruits, possessions, inheritances, and rights whatsoever, as well within the county of Somerset, as within the counties of Devon, Dorset, and elsewhere within the kingdom of England, Wales, and the Marches, in any way pertaining, belonging, or annexed to the said Monastery or Priory." To this they add the gift of all their charters, evidences, writings, and muniments. All these possessions are given unreservedly to the aforesaid most invincible prince to use, dispose, alienate, grant, convert, and transfer, as shall be most agreeable to his royal will. The very same terms are used, in derision we may well suppose, as those which abound in the ancient instruments of saintly benefactors; and the pillaged and powerless victims conclude with the declaration that "the aforesaid lands with their appurtenances we by these presents will warrant to our aforesaid lord the king, his heirs, and assigns, against all the world for ever. In witness whereof we the aforesaid Prior and Convent have caused our common seal to be affixed to these presents. Dated in our Chapter House of Taunton aforesaid, on the 12th day of the month of February, in the thirtieth year of the reign of King Henry aforesaid." As if the seal were not sufficient, the signature of each of the community is thus added in the margin :—

"P' me Willyl'm Wyll'ms, P'or'.

P' me Will'm Gregory, Subp'orem ibm.

Thom^as Matheu.
Wyll' Bayly.
P' me Nycolam Ber^am.
P' me Joh'nem Haywerd.
Thomas Dale.
P' me Will'm Culrun.
P' me Joh'nem Warryn.
P' me Willyelmu' P'son.
John Cokeram.
P' me Wyll'm Brynsmede." *

That man must be possessed of a hard and cruel heart, who can look at these signatures in the original document without emotion. The writer of the present lines can lay claim to no such apathy. To him these unsteady and hesitating characters are a most deeply affecting indication of agonized hearts and trembling hands, of a conviction that all that was dear was not only at the mercy of a sacrilegious tyrant but was gone for ever, of desolation and despair of soul from the knowledge that almost before those letters should have become dry the havoc and pillage would begin—that all that was left to them of their beloved and beautiful home was a wretched pension dependent on the caprice of implacable enemies, and that their future was a life-long wandering over a new and inexperienced world.

Nothing now remained but the destruction of the House and the division of the spoil. The very style and title of the place henceforth disappears, and it becomes "nuper Prioratus de Taunton modo dissolutus." Of the last scene I can furnish no memorial. No letter is known to exist of some sacrilegious commissioner recounting from Taunton

* Ex autograph. in Off. Rec. olim Augment.

his successive steps of heartless cruelty, nauseous hypocrisy, and impious wrong. There can be hardly a doubt that such was written, as similar were from Glastonbury, Fountains, Lewes, and a multitude of other places. And from these we may gain only too faithful a picture of the spectacle that was here presented. "I told yor lordshyp," writes one of these miscreants to Cromwell from the last mentioned locality, the great Priory of Lewes in Sussex, "of a vaute on the ryghte syde of the hyghe altare, that was born up wth fower greate pillars, hauing about it v chappelles, whych be compased in wth the walles lxx stokes of lengthe, that is fete ccx. All thys is down a Thursday & Fryday last. Now we ar pluckyng down an hygher vaute, born up by fower thicke & grose pillars, xiiij fote fro syde to syde, abowt in circu'fere'ce xlv fote. Thys shall down for o^{r} second worke. As it goth forward I woll aduise yor lordshyp from tyme to tyme; and that yor lordshyp may knowe wth how many men we haue don thys, we browght from London xvij persons, 3 carpentars, 2 smythes, 2 plummars, and on that kepith the fornace. Eu'y of these attendith to hys own office : x of them hewed the walles abowte, amonge the whych ther were 3 carpentars : thiese made proctes to vndersette wher the other cutte away, thother brake & cutte the waules. Thiese ar men exercised moch better then the men that we fynd here in the contreye. Wherefor we must bothe haue mo men, and other thinges also, that we haue nede of. . . . . At Lewes the xxiiij of March, 1537 (1539?)."* "It would have made an Heart of Flint," writes a witness of a different stamp, recording the spoliation of Roche Abbey, "to have melted and weeped, to have seen

* MS. Cott. Cleop. E. iv. pp. 232, 233

ye breaking up of ye House, and their sorrowfull departing, & ye sudden Spoil y^t^ fell ye same day of their departure from ye House. . . . . The Church was ye 1st thing that was put to ye Spoil, and then ye Abbat's Lodgine, Dortor and Frater, with ye Cloister and all ye Buildings thereabout within ye Abbey Walls. . . . . It would have pitied any Heart to see what tearing up of ye Lead there was, & plucking up of Boards, and throwing down of ye Sparres, and when ye Lead was torn off and cast down into ye Church, and ye Tombs in the Church all broken, ... and all things of Price either spoiled, carped away, or defaced to the uttermost." *

It is not improbable that on the very day that, as I believe, the former of these extracts was written a similar scene was exhibited at Taunton. The Surrender had been signed, as we have already noticed, on the 12th of the previous month; and we may be sure that it was not long before the demons of destruction were let loose to do their work. The demand for help just quoted, however, is sufficient proof that little assistance was obtained from the neighbourhood of the Monasteries. The agents of the tyrant had to bring abandoned and hardened ruffians from London to do their will and to execute their mandates. I need not attempt to draw more minutely the fearful picture of outrage, turmoil, blood, and fire. The walls which had for so many centuries resounded to the praises of God and the sounds of piety and learning were now invaded by a crew, whose very presence was a pollution and whose very aspect was a curse. The work of whole ages of faith and patience was in a few dreadful hours mercilessly destroyed and utterly ruined. But I forbear

* MS Cole, vol. XII., pp. 31, 32.

to enter further into their horror. The heart sickens while the blood boils at the imagination of the scene.

Such, doubtless, were the last hours of Taunton Priory.

The pittances which were ordered for each of the community are stated in a Pension Book, still existing among the documents of the Augmentation Office. The very grant of these pensions may be accepted as positive proof that the vices charged against the inmates of the Religious Houses were not only most grossly exaggerated, but were known by their accusers to be mere fabrications. Had the sufferers been really guilty, popular opinion would have allowed them to be sent adrift, even without this miserable concession to the known excellence of their lives and characters.

The entry referred to is as follows :—

"Tawneton.—Herafter ensuyth the namys of the late p^{i}or and Covente of Tawneton in the countie of Som's' with the annuall pencons assigned vnto them by vertue of the Kinges highnes com'ission, the xij daye of ffebruary in the xxx^{ti} yere of the reigne of o^{r} sou'eigne Lorde Kynge henry the viijth the furst payment of the saide pencons & eu'ry of them to begynne at the ffeaste of th' annunciacon of o^{r} blessid lady next comyng for one halfe yere, & so to be paide from halfe yere to halfe yere durynge ther lyffes—

	that is to saye,
Will'm Will'ms p^{i}or ..	lx^{li}
Will'm Gregory ..	x^{li}
Will'm Baylye ..	vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Nicholas Berame ..	vj^{li}

John Heywarde .. cvj^{s} viij^{d}
Thom^{a}s Dale .. cvj^{s} viij^{d} and the Cure of Saynt Jamys in Tawneton [s'uinge to haue for his yerly wages viij^{li} accomptynge his pencon for p'te of the same.
Thom^{a}s Mathewe .. cvj^{s} viij^{d}
Will'm P'son .. cvj^{s} viij^{d}
John Waren .. cvj^{s} viij^{d}
Will'm Bynnesmede .. cvj^{s} viij^{d}
Will'm Culronde .. cvj^{s} viij^{d}
John Cockeram .. cvj^{s} viij^{d}

Thom^{a}s Crumwell.
Jo. Tregonwell.
Wylliam Petre.
John Smyth." *

In order to complete the history of these sorely oppressed and persecuted men, thus sent forth from their quiet home to brave the troubles of an unknown world, I would add that of the Prior and eleven Canons who signed the Surrender on the 12th of February, 1539, and received the pensions just enumerated, the following were living in the year 1553, as appears by a list then made. The same authority supplies us with the names of the last Incumbents of the Chantries in S. Mary's Church, and at Staverdale, by which it will be seen that some changes had taken place between the date of the Valor and that of the Dissolution.

"An. 1553, here remained in charge £6 13s. 4d. in Fees; £39 6s. 8d. in Annuities; and these Pensions, viz.:

To William Baylie, £6 13s. 4d.; Nicholas Besam, £6; John Warren, £5 6s. 8d.; John Hayward, £5 6s. 8d.;

* Pension Book, vol. 245, No. 144.

John Cockeram, £5 6s. 8d.; William Persons, £5 6s. 8d.; and to William Brynsmede, £5 6s. 8d."

"Staffordell Chantry. To Robert Gulne, Incumbent, £5.

Taunton, St. Andrew's Chantry. To Henry Bull, Incumbent, £5.

Holy Trinity Chantry. To Ralph Wylkyns, Incumbent, £5.

St. Ethelred's Chantry. To William Callowe, Incumbent, £5.

St. Michael's Chantry. To John Seyman, Incumbent, £4 16s.

Virgin Mary's Chantry. To John Pytte, Incumbent, £4.

To William Trowbrydge, Incumbent of the Fraternity, £4.

To Alexander Maggott, Incumbent of Twing's Chantry, £3 14s. 4d."

And furthermore, William Callowe is stated to receive, as the Incumbent of a Service in West Monkton Church, an additional pension of £3 6s. 8d.*

We must now take up the history from the date of the suppression.

The difficulty was not entirely at an end, even when this defender of the Faith had appropriated the spoil. The lands lay as a heavy incubus on the spoiler. A curse was felt to be inalienably attached to them. People in general kept aloof, and refused to meddle with such dangerous property. The religious men of the day regarded the whole affair with loathing, and wisely forbore to involve themselves in the anathema which a participation in the wrong would attract. Even cautious men did not consider the purchase of such possessions in the light of by any

* Willis, Hist. of Abb., II. 200, 203.

means an eligible or safe investment. Accordingly, the domains which had in ancient times been given for the service of God and the benefit of the poor were squandered upon the lowest, the vilest, and the most abandoned of mankind. Greedy courtiers, renegades, mountebanks and miscreants of all descriptions alone benefitted, if so it may be called, by this wholesale sacrilege. And these new possessors were obliged to no exercise of religion, no work of compassion to body or soul for which the lands were originally bestowed. The stately portal with its right noble motto "JANUA PATET. COR MAGIS."* no longer, as of old, invited the wayfarer, and told him that, great as were its dimensions, the heart of its masters was greater still. No vesper bell sweetly whispered to the traveller that there were but a few steps between him and the welcome and repose that religion was glad to offer: no matin blessing dismissed him to his labours, and sent him once more on his way rejoicing and thankful. No aching bosom was henceforth there to be comforted, no wearied head to be laid to rest, no ignorance to be illuminated, no prodigal to be won to holier and better ways. They who, as these at Taunton, had so often received others of all sorts and conditions to hospitality and home, the King in his progresses, the great men of Church and State, the brother from some distant house, the displaced Monks of Buckland in the twelfth Century,† and the outcast and poor in every age, were now cast adrift that others might succeed by whom no such duties were held dear, and to whom mercy and charity would plead in vain. It was a foul wrong, without a single redeeming trait to set off its baseness.

* Monast. Dioec. Exon., p. 293.

† Monast. Angl. Lond. 1661, II. 550.

And it entirely fell short of the expectations of its designer, pillage and persecution alone excepted. One even of the main objects of the king—who, it is pertinently said, "continued much prone to reformation, especially if anything might be gotten by it"—that, namely, of enrichment, suffered the most signal failure; and all this hideous work was within a few short months admitted to be of no service and to no purpose, though with its very perpetrator for a judge.

In order to facilitate the disposal of the estates, a new Survey and Valuation were taken. The former, so far as it has been preserved, relates but to a part of the entire property. It is, however a document of the greatest interest, as it furnishes the data from which the subsequent valuation was compiled, and has singular claims on the attention of the local reader. We are hereby presented with the minuter features of the several domains, which the return that was based upon it does not supply. I have accordingly given an analysis of it, which will make the detail that follows more intelligible; and the latter, usually called the "Ministers' Accounts," I have carefully compressed into a tabular summary.

The Survey, then—which seems, I may add, to have been preserved rather by accident than design—contains the particulars of the following estates, which are here placed in the order that they occupy in the original:—

1. The site of the Priory, with the Demesne Lands or Home Farm. The lands are enumerated together with their contents:—Carter's Mede, containing vj acr.; Carter's Lese, vj acr.; Avesham Mede, v acr.; Hole Mede, xxiij acr. The Seven Acre, vij acr. The Crofte, arable, xxxiiij acr. Hynde-londes, xxviij acr. The Crofte, meadow, x acr. More Close, vij acr. Caluen Lese, ij acr. A close next

the Day Howse, vj acr. Somer Lese, viij acr. Prie, iiij acr. The More, with pasture of wood, xiiij acr., and a close of arable land lying adjacent to a meadow called Seven Acres. Thre Acre, containing iij acr. The farm of the aforesaid amounting, with all and singular appurtenances, to the annual value of .. viij^{li} xviij^{s} x^{d}

2. The Grange of Barton or Blakedon. The lands are Barnehays-parke, containing j acr. Meade, ij acr. Oldeberes, iij acr. Orcharde, pasture, j acr. Flowre, x acr. Twent Acre Close, xx acr. Barnehayes, v acr. Seven Acker Close, vij acr. Wodcrofte, xij acr. Laushers, xij acr. A close lying next to Speryng, vij acr. Kyngeslease, xiij acr. A pasture near Laushere, j acr. Priors Parke. With all their appurtenances; together with vj^{s} viij^{d} of rent of a certain pasture in Lyng in the tenure of Thomas and William Blansheflowre; xj^{s} of rent of certain land in Pitmyster, in the tenure of Richard Milbury; and vij^{s} of rent of certain land in Pitmyster aforesaid, in the tenure of Thomas Speryng. The farm amounting to the value per annum of .. .. c^{s}

3. The Rectory of Corff and Pytmyster. The tithes of corn, pensions, portions, &c., according to the late valuation of a jury, deducting the stipend of a chaplain serving the cure there; amounting to the sum of .. viij^{li} vij^{s} The amount of the Chaplain's stipend, however, is not stated. It was probably the same as at the time of the Valor, when it amounted to c^{s}.

4. The Grange of Midelton. Oxenlese, containing xvj acr. A close next the Day Howse, ij acr. Howebonde Close, xvj acr. Trikeslande, viij acr. Middelle Graunge Close, xliiij acr. West Grunge Close, xl acr. Tenne Acres Close, xxviij acr. Combe Heys, xxx acr. Newe Downe Close, xl acr. Gotesland Close, xxvj acr.

Millehey, vj acr. Newe Medes, xxx acr. More Close, iiij^{xx} acr. Brokesmore Close, xij acr. The farm amounting to the value per annum of .. .. x^{li}

5. The Rectory of S. Mary Magdaline in Taunton, with the Chapels of Risshton, Trull, and Hull Bishop's.

Tithes of corn, wool, lambs, and other small tithes, deducting xx^{li} per annum for a pension to the Vicar; amounting to the annual value of .. .. ix^{li} xij^{s} xj^{d}

Similar tithes of the Chapel of Rissheton, deducting vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}, for the stipend of the Chaplain there; amounting to the annual value of .. .. lxxvij^{s} xj^{d}

Similar tithes of the Chapel of Trulle, deducting vij^{li} xvj^{d}, for tithes of corn of Hamwod and Cerney, and vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}, for the stipend of the Chaplain there; amounting to the annual value of .. .. lxvj^{s} viij^{d}

Similar tithes of the Chapel of Wilton, deducting cvj^{s} viij^{d}, for the stipend of the Chaplain there; amounting to the annual value of .. .. .. xxvj^{s} viij^{d}

Similar tithes of Hull Bishop's, deducting vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}, for the stipend of the Chaplain there; amounting to the annual value of .. .. .. xj^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}

The whole amounting to .. .. xxix^{li} x^{s} x^{d}

6. The Rectory of S. James's by Taunton, which would appear at this time to have become separated from and independent of the vicarage, with the Chapel of Stapelgrove.

Tithes of corn, wool, lambs, and other small tithes, deducting liij^{s} iiij^{d}, for the stipend of a Chaplain there; amounting to the annual value of .. .. ix^{li} xij^{s} xj^{d}

A note is entered on the margin, explanatory of the smallness of the Chaplain's stipend :—" M^{d}. that there was a Canon of the late Priorye there [Thomas Dale] com'ytted to s'ue [serve] the cure there, havyng therfor liij^{s} iiij^{d} by

yere in augmentac' of his pencion as long as he wolde s'ue the sayd cure. Who nowe refusith to s'ue the same cure for soe small a stipend." The reader will remember in explanation of this note the memorandum appended to the list of the Canons' pensions at the period of the dissolution, already given in a previous page. Lower down on the same margin the very natural query appears "No^a. Who shall s'ue the cure here (?)"

Similar tithes of the Chapel of Staplegrove, deducting vj^li for the stipend of the Chaplain there; amounting to. . xl^s

The whole amounting to . . . . xj^li xij^s xj^d

7. The Rectory of Pytmyster, with the Chapel of Corff annexed to the same.

Similar tithes of grain, wool, lambs, &c., amounting to viij^li vj^s viij^d. The entry, however, is cancelled, as the item had already figured in the Survey under No. 3.

The sum total of the value as given by the return is lxxiij^li ix^s vij^d. And the declarations of its authenticity, correctness, and force are appended :—"ex^t p' Mathiam Colteh[irste?]," "fiat diss' John Ogan. Rychard Ryche."*

This account, though so circumstantial in the description of the localities, furnishes us with but little information on the value of produce, stock, wages, and other matters connected with the agriculture of that day or the history of prices. The land near the Priory, however, seems to have been estimated at about an average rent of xiij^d per acre ; while at Pitminster the average would appear to have been somewhat less.

We will now proceed to the summary of the "Ministers' Accounts," which were compiled, as we have already remarked, from the foregoing Survey and other similar returns :—

* Monasteries' Paper Surveys, in Off. Rec. vol. Zb.

THE LATE PRIORY OF TAUNTON.

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

TAUNTON.

The Site, with Demesne Lands ..	viij^{li} xviij^{s} x^{d}

ESSE.

Rents of the Free Tenants ..	xx^{s}
Assised Rents	xvj^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}
Farm of the Manor and Rectory ..	xlvj^{s} ix^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts ..	viij^{s} v^{d} ob'

WESTOWE.

Assised Rents	vj^{li} iij^{s} iij^{d} ob'

MIDDELTON.

Assised Rents	cxiiij^{s} vj^{d}
Farm	x^{li}
Perquisites of the Courts ..	c^{s} vj^{d}

BREWTON.

Rents of the Free Tenants ..	xxxv^{s} j^{d}
Assised Rents	vj^{li}

BATTECOMBE.

Assised Rents	xxxj^{s}
Rents of the Free Tenants ..	xv^{s}

LOVYNGTON.

Assised Rents	xliiij^{s} iiij^{d}

THORNCOFFYN.

Assised Rents	iiij^{li} iiij^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts ..	v^{s}

WILLOND.

Assised Rents	xv^{li} ij^{s} iij^{d}
Out Rents	v^{s} x^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts ..	vj^{li} xvij^{s} x^{d}

BLACKEDEN, &c.

Assised Rents	lxxvij^{s} xj^{d}

BERTON.

Farm of Grange	c^{s}

CORFFE AND PITMISTER.

Farm of Rectory	viij^{li} vij^{s}

THURLOXSTON.

Rents of the Free Tenants ..	xiij^{d}
Assised Rents of the Customary Tenants	xiiij^{li} xiiij^{s} ix^{d}

PYXSTON.

Assised Rents	xv^{li} vj^{s} iiij^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts ..	xxiij^{li} viij^{s} iiij^{d}

TOBRIGE.

Assised Rents	vj^{li} xviij^{s} ij^{d} ob'
Perquisites of the Courts ..	vj^{li} vj^{d}

CHAPEL OF WYLTON.

Farm of Chapel	vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

CANON STREET.

Assised Rents	xxix^{li} xviij^{s} iiij^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts ..	xx^{li} viij^{s} iiij^{d}

TAUNTON EXTRA PORTAM.

Assised Rents	xiij^{li} iiij^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts ..	xlviij^{s} j^{d}

DULVERTON RECTORY.

Rents of the Free Tenants ..	x^{s} v^{d}
Assised Rents	x^{li} xiiij^{s}
Farm of Rectory	xj^{li} x^{s}

DULVERTON MANOR.

Rents of the Free Tenants ..	ix^{s} j^{d}
Assised Rents of Customary Tenants	xij^{li} ix^{s} vij^{d}

DULVERTON BAILIWICK.

Rent called Downe Rent ..	x^{s}

LUCOTT.

Assised Rents	xxxviij^{s} viij^{d}

DULVERTON.

Rent called Shamellrent	ij^{s} x^{d}
Rent of certain Lands and Tenements	iiij^{s}

WITHULL.

Assised Rents	xxxj^{s}

DULVERTON.

Assised Rent called Bonvildes Rent	xxxij^{s}
Perquisites of the Courts	xxxiiij^{li} xviij^{s} x^{d}
Sale of Wood	xlvj^{s} viij^{d}

GRASSCROFT.

Rents	xxx^{s}

LANGPORT.

Rents	v^{s}

ATHILBURY, OLDE CLIFFE, AND BRIGEWATER.

Rents	xxij^{s} iiij^{d}

HOLCOMBE.

Rents, and Rent called le Churchettes (a payment of corn as the first-fruits of harvest)	xvij^{s} viij^{d}

TAUNTON HUNDRED.

Tithe of xij Mills of the Bp. of Winchester	xl^{s}

CLOWYNBARO.

Pension from the Rectory ..	iiij^{s}

ORCHARDE.

Pension from the Rectory ..	v^{s}

DULVERTON.

Pension from the Vicarage ..	lx^{s}

LANGFORD, AND NEAR THE CHAPEL OF TAUNTON.

Portion of Tithes	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

COURTHAY AND PRISTLONDYS.

Farm	xxiiij^{s}

KYNGESHILL.

Rents	xlij^{s} iiij^{d}

FONS GEORGIJ.

Assised Rents	lxix^{s} x^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts ..	iiij^{d}

GALDEN.

Assised Rents	vj^{li} xij^{s} vij^{d}
Farm of Lands, Tenements, &c. ..	iiij^{li}

THURLEBARE.

Rents	lxxvij^{s} viij^{d}

WEST HATCHE.

Rents	xxxvij^{s} viij^{d}

UPPE HATCHE.

Rents	xxiij^{s} iiij^{d}

STOOKE.

Rents	viij^{d}

THURLEBARE AND STOKE.

Farm of Rectory with Chapel ..	ix^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

HULLE BISHOP'S CHAPEL.

Farm of Tithes	xviij^{li}

WITHILL.

Farm of Rectory	iiij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}

STAFFORDELL.

Farm of Manor House	c^{s}

WYNCAUNTON.

Assised Rents	viij^{li} v^{s}
Farm of Rectory	viij^{li}

ROUNDHILL.

Farm of Manor House	ix^{li}

BAROWE.

Assised Rents	viij^{li} vj^{s} vij^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts ..	v^{s} viij^{d}

KYNGESTON.

Farm of Rectory	xiiij^{li}

TAUNTON. RECTORY OF S. MARY MAGDALENE.

Tithes	xxix^{li} xij^{s} xj^{d}

TAUNTON. RECTORY OF S. JAMES.

Tithes	xij^{li} vj^{s} iij^{d}

STAPELGROVE CHAPEL.

Tithes	viij^{li}

RYSSHETON CUM STOKE.

Tithes	x^{li} xj^{s} iij^{d}

TRULL.

Farm of Rectory	xv^{li}

PALLYNGEFORD, HOLFORD, & OTEFORDE.

Farm of Tithe	vij^{li} vij^{s} iiij^{d}

NYNEHED.

Farm of Rectory	vij^{li} *

A comparison of the values here given with those of the same localities as presented in the "Valor" does not offer, with the exception of one department, many cases of notable difference: indeed, in several instances the sums are identical. The exception is in the increase in the Perquisites of the Courts, which, for example, in Middelton are stated in the "Valor" to be vj^{s} viij^{d}, and in the "Minister's Accounts" to amount to c^{s} vj^{d}; and in Willond, Tobrige, Pixston, and Canon Street, to be respectively ix^{s}, xvj^{d}, iij^{s} iiij^{d}, and xxx^{s} in the "Valor," and vj^{li} xvij^{s} x^{d}, vj^{li} vj^{d}, xxiij^{li} viij^{s} iiij^{d}, and xx^{li} viij^{s} iiij^{d} in the later return.

We have now, in conclusion, to see how the spoil was divided.

Sir William Zouch has already been mentioned as the founder of the Priory of Staverdale. It appears that the possessor of the name at the period at which we have arrived was determined if possible to regain as his portion

* Comput. Ministr. in Off. Rec. olim Augment.

of the prey the land which his pious ancestor had solemnly devoted to sacred use. He accordingly wrote to Cromwell, who was the king's principal agent in this work, the following characteristic letter :—

"Sure, pleshyt yor good mast[er]chype to vnderston y^{t} wer I dewlle ys a pore pryery, a fu'dacion off my nawynsetres, wyche ys my lord my father[es] ynerytans and myne, and be the reson off a lowyde pryor y^{t} was ther, wyche was a schanon off taw'ton a for, browytte hytt to be a sell vnto taw'ton, and now hys hytt dystryde, and ther ys but to chanons, wyche be off no good leuyng, and y^{t} ys gret petty, the pore howse scholde be so yll yntretyd ; werfor yff ytt may plese yor good mast[er]-chype to be so good mast[er] to me to gett me the pore howse wyche ys callyd stau[er]dell, I wer bownde to pray for yor mast[er]chyp. And also I schal bere yo^{u} my harty s[er]uys nextt the kynge ys gras, and be at yor co'-mayndme't, be the gras off god, ho eu[er] p[re]s[er]ue yor good mast[er]chype. yor howyne pore s[er]uantt and bedma',

RYCHARD ZOUCHE."

Endorsed :—"To the Ryght worchypfull & my synglar good mast[er], mast[er] Secrettory, be thys Dd." *

The two canons alluded to by the writer of this letter were the chaplains already mentioned in the Valor, whom it suited his purpose to revile. Although it does not appear that the epistle was productive of the precise effect that he desired, as the "fu'dacion off my nawynsetres" was granted to John, earl of Oxford, he is mentioned, as we shall see presently, in the Originalia roll as obtaining possession of divers lands, tenements, and messuages in the immediate neighbourhood.

* MS. Cott. Cleop. E. iv., f. 315. (Olim, 259*)

Several years elapsed from what appears to be the date of the foregoing letter, a fact which can hardly be accounted for save by our knowledge of the feeling with which the fruits of sacrilege were even then regarded, before the site of the Priory was formally transferred to other hands, when it was given by its new master to two of his creatures. On the 13th of June, 1544, the king granted to Sir Francis Bryan and Matthew Coltehirste all the house and site of the late Priory of Taunton, and all the messuages, houses, buildings, dovecots, pools, vivaries, gardens, orchards, arable and other lands, and inheritances whatsoever, situated and included within the site, enclosure, compass, circuit, and precinct of the same late Priory. Also all those arable lands, meadows, pastures, and inheritances whatsoever, called or known by the name or names of Carters Lease, Carters Meade, Avysham Meade, Seven Acres Meade, Hole Meade, Ley Meade, More Close, the Crofftes, Hynde Landes, Calfeven Lease, Somer Lease, Pry Close, More Close, and all the close next the Deyhouse; and all the close called Three Acres; and all those lands and woods called Priours Woode; and all other lands, meadows, pastures, woods, and inheritances whatsoever, commonly denominated and called the Demayne Landes of the said late Priory. These possessions are described as situated in Taunton, Hull Bishop's, Staplegrove, Russheton, Trull, Corff, Pytmyster, Churche, Hilfarance, Norton, Kyngeston, and Cheddon, and as formerly belonging and pertaining to the said late Priory. All these, with the produce of the woods, rents, yearly returns and all other rights, profits, and emoluments, are estimated at the clear annual value of eight pounds eighteen shillings and ten pence. They are stated to be granted in consideration of good, true, and

faithful service—we need not stay to surmise its nature—rendered by these dutiful adherents; and the somewhat dubious favour is added of permission to hold the property as fully, freely, and entirely as the late owners had done, and to enjoy it as much as they. Finally, that the lands were to be held by them as tenants in capite, by the service of a twentieth part of one knight's fee, and an annual rent of seventeen shillings and eleven pence, to be paid at Michaelmas in every year: all profits and rents to commence from the Feast of the Annunciation last past. Witness the king at Westminster, the 13th day of June.*

Other portions of the property were given to various persons about the same time. William Chapleyn and John Selwood obtained, on the 5th of March, 1545, a grant of lands, tenements, gardens, cottages, and burgages situated outside the East-gate in Taunton, and in Canon Strete, Middel Strete, and Seint James Strete, in the parishes of S. Mary Magdalene, S. James, and Westmonkton. Also lands called Baldewynslande, and others lying near to Crechburgh Hill within the last named parish; land situated north of the Chapel of S. Margaret, then or lately in the occupation of divers poor people of the Spittelhouse there; land called Seint Poles Chapell in the west part of the said town of Taunton, in the parish of Hill Busshopp; and land called Seint Leonardes Chapell in the northern part, in the parish of S. James, all formerly belonging to the Priory.† To Alexander Popham and William Halley were granted lands in Thurlebare, West Hatche, and Upp Hatche, together with the messuage and tenement of Playstrete, and the manor and demesne of Tobrydge in

* Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 21, m. 14 (38). Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., 6 pars, rot. 25. Rep. Orig. B.M. Add. MS. 6366, p. 90.

† Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., 4 pars, rot. 93.

the parish of S. James's.* To Humphry Colles the Grange of Barton or Blakedon, with lands called Barnehayes, Parke-meade, Oldhayes, Orcheyarde, Twentie acres, Woodcrofte, &c., with the rectory and chapel of Corff and Pytmyster, and tenements in Catanger.† To John, earl of Oxford lands at Stafferdell, a Particular for the grant of which is dated 23rd Oct., 1543, and a "Certyfycat of the vewe and measure of ye woode," on the 13th of the previous June; and to Sir Thomas Arundell and Richard Zouche divers other lands at Staffordell.‡ To William Standyshe the manor of Gaulden, and other lands and tenements in Tollond.‖ To Robert Hyll the manor of Thurlebare, and messuages in Westhatche, Tobrydge, &c.§ And to William Eyre, lands at Nynehedde.¶ To pursue further the history of the various estates after the suppression would lead us into details, the value of which, as connected with our present subject, would not appear, although they possess a great and peculiar interest of their own, to warrant so considerable an expenditure of labour, space, and time.**

An exception may, perhaps, be made in favour of the sacred site of the Priory itself. Whether it was that Sir Francis Bryan and Matthew Coltehirste entertained some qualms about the nature of their perilous property must be left to conjecture. So early, however, as the year 1549, or about five years after their first acquisition of it, they pro-

* Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., 8 pars, rot. 17.
† Orig. 34 Hen. VIII., 3 pars, rot. 32.
‡ Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., 7 pars, rot. 91.
‖ Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., 8 pars, rot. 11.
§ Orig. 37 Hen. VIII. p. 1, rot. 40.
¶ Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., 9 pars, rot. 51.
** See 5 Edw. VI. Pasc. Rec. rot. 1. 7 Eliz. Hil. Rec. rot. 40. 18 Eliz. Hil. Rec. rot. 86. 19 Eliz. Hil. Rec. rot. 99. 9 Jac. I. Mich. Rec. rot. 132, &c.

cured a licence for alienating it to one Thomas More. The licence is dated at Westminster, the 22nd of June, in that year, and recites the various possessions—Carters Lees, Carters Meade, Avesham Mede, Hole Meade, Seven acre Meade, Ley Meade, More Close, the Croftes, Hynde Londes, Chalfeuenlease, Pry Close, More Close, the whole close next the Deyhouse, Three Acres, the woods and lands called Priours Woode, the lands commonly called the Demeane Landes, situate in Taunton, Hull Bishop's, Staple Grove, Rysshton, Trull, Corff, Pytmyster, Chyrche, Hylfarance, Norton, Kyngeston, and Cheddon.* He and his kept possession for a while, until in four short-lived generations the family, which had a hard struggle for existence, and often seemed on the point of annihilation through failure of heirs male, succumbed at length to the mysterious law of retributive justice, which had so many examples in that dreadful time to give it solemnity, and, as one would imagine, to force on the minds even of the most unreflecting of mankind a deep conviction of its terrible truth—and "the name was clean put out."

Grassy hillocks, as I have already observed, alone mark the spot on which the House was reared. Not a pier of the noble Conventual Church, not a capital of one of its clustered columns, not a boss from the vaulted roof, not a fragment of tracery through which the light fell in soft and many-coloured radiance upon the chequered pavement, not even the half obliterated lines of a sculptured slab that once told of saintly Prior or learned Canon, who had gone to his reward and left the memory of his virtues to devoted and faithful hearts—not a solitary relic of that glorious whole has escaped the hand of the relentless spoiler. All is

* Orig. 3 Edw. VI., 4 pars, rot. 95. Rep. Orig. B.M. Add. MS. 6367, p. 98.

gone—and that it was ever there seems to the eye of sense but a dream of the imagination, and a flight of fancy. Yet amid its quiet and unbroken stillness there is a charm that inalienably haunts the place, a magic that can pourtray for us some fair lineaments of the sacred scene, before evil hands invaded its repose and evil feet entered to violate its peace. The eye of the soul can once more picture the spot glorified as it was of old, and peopled with the noble forms that blessed and dignified their venerable and stately home. While the spirit's ear can grandly realize the assertion of the legend, and induce its possessor to believe, with the old neighbours from whom I have listened to the reverently narrated account, that, as he rambles among the green mounds, when all nature seems asleep under the cloudless moon of a summer midnight, he can hear the Canons still singing in their Church beneath the dewy sward, and chanting their solemn Office, at once an imploring deprecation of woe to come and a requiem in loving valediction of days long passed away.

THOMAS HUGO.

[*The Committee are happy to announce that the Author of the foregoing Paper is about to publish an Appendix, containing, inter alia, copies of the originals of the documents referred to. They also intimate that he will be glad to receive the names of those who desire to possess the work, addressed to him in London; and that, although it is to be expected that very little if aught can still remain unnoticed, he earnestly solicits to be favoured with the communication of any such new particulars, however minute or unimportant they may appear.*]

On the reputed discovery of King Arthur's Remains at Glastonbury.

BY THE REV. W. A. JONES, M.A., F.G.S., ETC.

AS it would scarcely be deemed proper for the Somersetshire Archæological Society to hold a Meeting at Glastonbury without referring to some of the most ancient and interesting historical associations connected with the place, I beg leave to lay before the Society a brief resumé of the sources and value of the information we possess in reference to the interment and reputed discovery of King Arthur's remains in the cemetery of Glastonbury Abbey.

I confess I have no sympathy with that school of historical critics who find the myth and the fable preponderating to such an extent in all early records as to wipe out from the page of historical fact almost every event and every personage in which our minds and our hearts have been most deeply interested. Notwithstanding all that has been said to the contrary, I believe King Arthur to have been a real historical personage, and not a mere myth. Even the legends and romances in which he and the Knights of his Round Table occupy

so prominent a place, are to me otherwise perfectly unintelligible and unaccountable. It is, moreover, worthy of note that the mythological fictions which have given rise to the doubts and the disbelief as to the reality of this great personage had their origin, or at least their main development, on the Continent and not in Britain. In the earliest poetical literature of the Cymri, Arthur is represented only as a great and distinguished military chief. His cotemporary, Llywarch Hên, speaks of him as such, in the battle of Llongborth.* The Welsh Triads in like manner preserve the same historical character, and more than thirty of them refer to this distinguished British king.

The fondness for the marvellous which possessed the monasteries was the origin of some of the extravagant additions which gradually accumulated around his name. Though we may, and I believe must, reject a great part of the marvellous narratives associated with King Arthur, yet that does not involve nor require the rejection of the leading facts which underlie the whole complicated structure of fiction which has been raised thereon.

As this subject opens a very wide field of historical criticism, I shall confine myself to the reputed discovery of the great monarch's remains in the cemetery of the Abbey which will be visited by us this day.

The existence of the tradition *anterior* to the reputed discovery of his remains in the reign of Henry II—that Arthur the king had been interred at Glastonbury—is clearly established by the *Chronicle of Tysilio*, and the *History of Gruffyth ab Arthur*, more commonly known as *Geoffrey of Monmouth*. Though only a vague tradition, it is sufficient to prove that it was not invented to give a

* See *Proceedings of Somersetshire Archæological Society*, vol. IV., p. 45.

colouring of probability to the subsequent search and discovery. The *Chronicle of Tysilio* is supposed to have been compiled about A.D. 1000, and Geoffrey died several years before the year 1170, when, according to Giraldus Cambrensis, the discovery was made. It was not, however, a certain and universally admitted fact that Arthur had been buried at Glastonbury, for among the Cymri the precise locality was still regarded as a secret. Thus the ancient British Triad :

"Bedd i March, bedd i Gwythur,
Bedd i Gwgawn Gleddfrudd,
Anoeth bydd bedd i Arthur."

"Here is the grave of March (ap Meirchion),
Here is the grave of Gwythyr (ap Greidiol),
Here is the grave of Gwgawn Gleddfrudd,
But unknown is the grave of Arthur."

Looking at the question, a priori, there is every probability that King Arthur, after having received his mortal wound at Camlan, in Cornwall, should desire to avail himself of the medical skill which was found in those days in great monasteries, and at Glastonbury in particular, and if he should die to be interred near the shrine which was at the same time the most famous and the most sacred in his time. Arthur was not like his Saxon enemies—a pagan. Imbued, probably, with the culture which Roman civilization had introduced, he had superadded the holy influence of the Christian faith, and to him nothing could be more to be desired than to rest near the consecrated walls and within sound of the sacred service of prayer as offered up by the holy men of the Abbey of Avallon. The mode of transit which tradition describes, namely by water along the north coast of Devon and Somerset and into the lake or

æstuary which at that time, probably, ran inland on either side of Polden, was at the same time the safest and most easy for an invalid. The tradition presents itself in a very beautiful and poetical form in a MS. Latin poem in the British Museum, which bears the title of "*Vita Merlini per Galfridum Monumetensum versu Heroico ad Robertum Lincolniensem.*" (Cott. MSS. Vespasian E. iv.) About page 128 of the volume, the poet describes the favoured spot where we are now assembled as *Insula pomorum, quæ fortunata vocatur*, which is a literal translation of the ancient British name, *Ynys Avallon;** and he further describes the skill in the healing art possessed by nine sisters who dwelt here, one of whom greatly excelled the rest, and whose fame had spread far and wide. I give the extracts from notes I made in the British Museum some years ago from the original:

"Quarumque prior est fit doctior arte medendi
Exceditque suas forma præstante sorores
Morgen ei nomen."

In *Morgen* we recognise the Morgana who forms so prominent a feature in all the romance literature—the name itself being Keltic, and signifying "beside the sea." The poet then describes the voyage from Camlan, on the Cornish coast, to "the blessed Island of Apple-groves," whither the wounded king desired to be conveyed:

"Illuc post bellum Camblani vulnere lesum
Duximus Arcturum nos conducente Barintho
Equora cui fuerant et Cæli sydera nota
Hoc rectore ratis cum principe venimus illuc
Et nos quo decuit Morgen suscepit honore

* For the various names by which Glastonbury has been known, and their signification, see a paper *On the Application of Philology to Archæological Investigation*, by the writer of this paper in *Proceedings* of the Society for 1854, vol. v.

Inque suis thalamis posuit super aurea regem
Strata, manuque sibi detexit vulnus honesta
Inspexitque diu: tandemque redire salutem
Posse sibi dixit, si secum tempore longo
Esset, et ipsius vellet medicamine fungi.
Gaudentes igitur regem commissimus illi
Et dedimus ventis redeundo vela secundis."
Tunc Merlinus ad hæc ait: O delecti. . . .*

I do not, of course, attach any *historical* value to the details as given in this poem, but I think we are fully justified in accepting the leading facts as based on very early tradition—an authority by no means to be despised.

We come now to the authorities for the reputed discovery of the remains. There can be no ground whatever of doubt, I think, that a rude coffin with a stone slab (in fact, nothing more than a block of oak hollowed out), purporting to be the coffin of King Arthur, was dug up in the reign of Henry II., and that in this flat stone there was found inserted a leaden cross, with an inscription relative to King Arthur. This we learn from the Abbey Records and from the detailed account of Giraldus Cambrensis. How far we are justified in regarding the leaden cross with the inscription as genuine, is not so clear, but of that more hereafter.

The Abbey Records are the *Parvus Liber*, and the

* "Piloted by Barinthus, skilled in the navigation of the seas and in the knowledge of all the stars of heaven, hither we brought Arthur, sore wounded in the battle of Camlan. With him as captain of our bark hither we came with our prince, and Morgen receiving us with due honour, laid the king upon her couch covered with embroidered gold. With her own hand she uncovered the wound, and examined it long. An length she declared that health might return, if his stay with her be prolonged, and if he were willing to submit to her healing art. With joy we therefore committed the king to her care, and spread our sails to favouring breezes on our return."

Magna Tabula Glastoniensis. These, according to Usher's *Primordia*, give substantially the same account of the exploration and discovery which is found in the works of Giraldus Cambrensis, namely his *Liber Distinctionum* and his *Institutio Principis*. In the main facts all these are agreed, but the testimony of Giraldus Cambrensis is most deserving of attention, because he visited Glastonbury about fourteen years after the event, and professes to give the account of the occurrence which he had received from the lips of the then Abbot, who had also been an eye witness of the search and the discovery. The date of this visit was about A.D. 1184, the coffin having been dug up in A.D. 1170; but the accounts do not seem to have been written by Giraldus till between thirty and forty years after the date of his visit, and at an interval of about ten years, which accounts for some slight discrepancies that appear in his narratives.

The account which gives the fullest details occurs in the *Liber Distinctionum* of Giraldus, beginning with the 8th chapter. He states that, "In their own times while the 2nd Henry reigned, the long celebrated tomb of Arthur the British king was dug up in the consecrated cemetery of St. Dunstan at Glastonbury, between two lofty obelisks on which were inscriptions to the memory of Arthur, and which had been erected with great labour, the search being undertaken by the command of the fore-said king, and under the supervision of Henry the Abbot, who was afterwards translated to the bishoprick of Winchester. The body had become reduced to dust and bones." The writer then states that "after the battle of Kemelen in Cornwall, Arthur, being mortally wounded, was borne to the island of Avallonia, now called Glastonia, by a noble matron named Morganis, his relative, at whose instance he was

afterwards buried in the consecrated cemetery of the Abbey. That this was the origin of the belief very generally entertained that Arthur was not dead, but had been carried into fairy-land by Morganis, to return again in strength and power to resume the Government of Britain."

Giraldus then specially remarks, "that though the Abbot possessed some clue to the resting place of the British king from ancient writings and chronicles, as well as some from the inscriptions on the obelisks, yet he derived most knowledge from the representations of the king himself, who had often reported to him that he had understood from the chronicles and historical bards of the Britons, that King Arthur had been buried between the two obelisks, which had been afterwards erected in the cemetery, but that, lest the Saxons and his enemies should disturb his remains, the body was buried very deep in the ground. Accordingly, on digging, a broad flat stone was found about seven feet under ground, the sarcophagus being nine feet below that, and a leaden cross discovered, inserted not on the upper but on the lower surface of the stone slab, bearing the following inscription :

HIC JACET SEPULTUS INCLITUS REX ARTHURUS IN INSULA AVALONIA CUM WENNEVEREIA UXORE SUA SECUNDA.

"And this cross," continues Giraldus, "after it had been taken from the stone, we ourselves saw, being shown to us by the foresaid Abbot Henry, and these words we read. Now, as the cross was inserted in the lower surface of the stone, so the side of the cross on which the inscription was placed was turned towards the stone, in order to be the better hidden. . . . . Thus were found the remains of Arthur : not in a marble tomb, as became a distinguished king, not in one of stone nor Parian, but

even in a wooden sepulchre—an oak trunk, hollowed out for the purpose; and this, moreover, sunk sixteen feet or more underground, a mode of interment, for so great a prince, indicating haste rather than honour, according to the exigencies of those troubled times."*

The value of this testimony to the principal facts does not seem to me to be at all vitiated by the few errors and discrepancies which manifestly present themselves in the account. Thus the inscriptions on the two obelisks are said to be in "memory of Arthur," though all the most authentic records represent them as of purely Saxon origin. Again, the inscription on the leaden cross, as given in the *Liber Distinctionum*, contains the words CUM WENNEVEREIA UXORE SUA SECUNDA, which do not occur in the engraving of the cross as given by Camden. And lastly, Giraldus

* The original text of the passage is as follows:—Notandum hic etiam quod licet abbas prænominatus aliquam habuerit ad corpus Arthuri quærendum ex scriptis antiquis et chronicis notitiam, nonnullam quoque ex literis pyramidum inscriptis quamquam antiquitatis et fere omnino vetustate deletis, maximam tamen habuit per dictum regem Henricum ad hæc evidentiam. Dixerat enim ei pluries sicut ex gestis Britonum et eorum cantoribus historicis rex audierat quod inter pyramides quæ postmodum erectæ fuerant in sacro cemeterio sepultus fuit rex Arthurus valde profunde propter metum Saxonum quos ipse sæpe expugnaverat. . . . . Propter eundem etiam metum in lapidem quodam lato tanquam ad sepulchrum a fodientibus invento quasi pedibus septem sub terra, quum tamen sepulchrum Arthuri novem pedibus inferius inventum fuerit reperta fuerit crux plumbea non superiori sed potius inferiori parte lapidis inserta literas has inscriptas habens HIC JACET SEPULTUS INCLITUS REX ARTHURUS IN INSULA AVALLONIA CUM WENNEVEREIA UXORE SUA SECUNDA. Crucem autem hanc extractam a lapide dicto abbate Henrico ostendente perspeximus et literas has perlegimus. Sicut autem crux inferius lapidi inserta fuerit sic et crucis ejusdem pars literata ut occultior esset versus lapidem versa fuit. . . . . Sic Arthuri corpus inventum fuit: non in sepulchro marmoreo ut regem decebat eximium, non in saxeo aut Pariis lapidibus exsecto, sed potius in ligneo ex quercu ad hoc cavato, et sexdecim pedibus aut pluribus in terra profundo propter festinam potius quam festivam tanti principis humationem, tempore nimirum turbationis urgentis id exigente.

Liber Distinctionum, Giraldi Cambrensis.

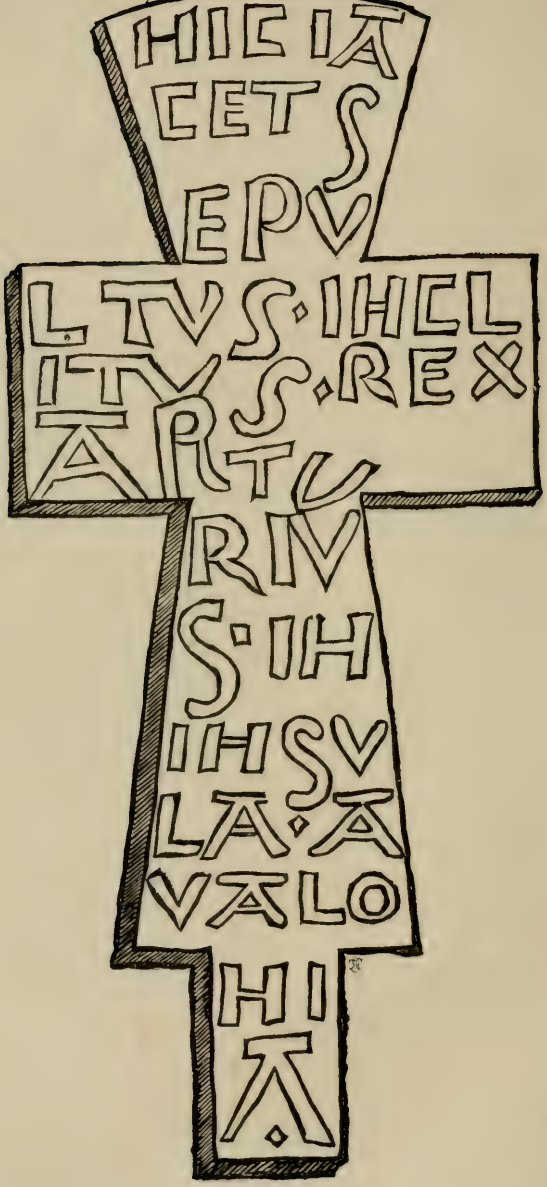
evidently confounds Henry de Swansey, who was the Abbot at the time of his visit, with his predecessor Henry de Blois, in whose time the discovery was made. These discrepancies are not to be wondered at, when we remember that the account was probably written at an interval of nearly forty years after the visit Giraldus paid to Glastonbury.

Henry de Blois, who was also Bishop of Winchester, died, according to Dugdale, in the year 1171, having had the pastoral charge of the Church for forty-five years, and retaining the government of the Monastery after he had been promoted to the Bishoprick. This helps us to determine the date of the reputed discovery. In addition to this, it is represented in the *Antiquitates Glastonienses* that the search was made soon after the return of Henry II. from Wales, and it does not appear that he revisited Wales after the year 1169. We find also that in 1170 Henry was doing all he could to consolidate his dynasty, his son Prince Henry having been crowned at York, in June of the same year, in order to be associated with his father in the royalty. From all this we are led to consider A.D. 1170 as the date of the exhumation.

Such is the testimony of Giraldus, who wrote, as I have before intimated, about A.D. 1210, concerning what he saw at Glastonbury forty years before. The remains then discovered were evidently believed to have been those of the ancient British king, and they were treated accordingly as sacred relics. Dugdale states that they were afterwards removed into the Presbytery of the Church and reinterred with the following inscription by Abbot Henry de Swansey :

" Hic jacet Arthurus, flos regum, gloria regni
Quam mores, probitas commendant laude perenni."

NATURAL HISTORY



LEATHERN CROSS FOUND AT GLASTONBURY. Temp. Henry II.
From Gibbons' Early Saxon Architecture.

The next authority is Leland, who, in the *Collectanea* (v. p. 55), states on the authority of a Monk of Glastonbury, that Edward I. with his queen visited the Abbey in 1276, and removed the shrine from the place where it was first deposited, placing it before the high altar. The leaden cross had meanwhile been deposited in the Treasury of the Abbey, and in the reign of Henry VIII it was seen by Leland, and treated with marked reverence and enthusiasm so characteristic of the old antiquary. In speaking of it in his *Assertio Arthuri*, he says, "Quam ego curiosissimis contemplatus cum oculis et solicitis contractavi articulis, motus et antiquitate rei et dignitate."

Still later we have the authority of Camden in his *Britannia*, who gives a sketch of the "broad cross of lead" with the inscription, as he says, "drawn out of the first copy in the Abbey of Glascon." A fac-simile of this woodcut is given in the present volume, taken from the princeps edition, by Dr. Philemon Holland, MDCX., and which may be regarded as the best authority extant. The inscription is as follows:

HIC JACET SEPVLTVS INCLITVS REX
ARTVRIVS IN INSVLA AVALONIA.

What became of the original after the dissolution of the monastery is not known. There is no clue to its subsequent history, that I know of, if it may not be found among some of the treasures of the Monks of Glastonbury, which were removed to Naworth Castle, the ancient seat of the Howards, and still the property of that noble and distinguished family. Before closing the notice of Camden's testimony it is necessary to observe that on the authority of William of Malmesbury and of Giraldus, he states that "the sepulchre wherein the bones of that famous Arthur were bestowed, was of oake made hollow."

We now come to the question—was the leaden cross with its inscription a forgery, and the search and reputed discovery a pretence?

There were very powerful reasons of state which would make Henry the Second at this time especially anxious to be able to bring forward so manifest a proof of King Arthur's death and burial, to convince the Welsh of the vanity of their national expectation of his re-appearance to resume the sway of the British tribes. Henry had completed the subjugation of North Wales, but the people of the South still held out, influenced mainly, among other reasons, by the deeply and universally cherished hope and conviction that Arthur was not dead, but would soon come to restore the kingdom of the Kymri. Henry de Blois, the Abbot of Glastonbury at this time, was first cousin to the king, being the brother of Stephen. Could there have been a collusion between him and his cousin, and the whole pretended discovery have been a delusion? That certainly is possible. But is it probable? The Abbot could not well have carried out the scheme without the knowledge and concurrence of the whole community. Would it be deemed safe to confide so important a state secret to so many witnesses who could not be under the control of the court?

I do not attach much importance to the fact of Henry de Blois' near relationship to Stephen, which would make it unlikely he should further the interests of his brother's rival and successor; for during his own brother's life we find that the Abbot sided with the supporters of Matilda on the other side on several occasions. It must be remembered, however, that the Abbot of Glastonbury was not so dependent upon the king that he could be compelled against his will in such a matter. The mitred Abbots of

Glastonbury, and Henry in particular from his noble birth and lordly position, were not likely to be made the tools of any monarch. Henry de Blois at this very time was Abbot of Glastonbury, Bishop of Winchester, and held the office of the Pope's Legate throughout England. He was drawing so near to the close of his earthly pilgrimage, and was in the enjoyment of so many great and distinguished honours, that no motive can be conceived sufficient to induce him to take part in or connive at so great and palpable a fraud.

I admit the difficulty arising from the gigantic and superhuman proportions of the bones which were exhibited by the monks as the remains of King Arthur. Thus Giraldus himself, in speaking of the bones he saw exhibited, says: "His leg bone being placed along side the leg of a very tall man reached three fingers' breadth above the knee, as the Abbot shewed us. His skull was also very large and thick, being a hand's breadth wide between the eyes and the eye-brows." The proportions even of the bones exhibited are no doubt greatly exaggerated in this account, and it does not at all follow after all that they were the bones found in the sarcophagus. The lapse of time which had passed from the interment to the discovery would imply the almost complete decomposition of the bones, and there is no improbability in the surmise that the bones afterwards exhibited were not the bones found, but some others selected purposely, because of their size, to increase the wonder and enhance the value of the relics. Our rejection of the purely legendary and impossible does not involve our rejection of the record, and our acceptance of the leading features of the event does not commit us to the exaggerations of that wonder-loving age.

There are difficulties also arising from the inscription on

the leaden cross. To say the least, the addition of the words IN INSULA AVALONIA, is suspicious. The adverb *hic* (here), would be sufficient to determine the locality without the addition of the very name of the place. It is an addition, I admit, very unlikely to be made under the circumstances. It would be interesting to know if similar forms ever occur in sepulchral inscriptions. I do not know of another instance myself. After all, it is quite within the range of possibility. In other respects, the form of the letters, which are of the debased Romano-British type, and the character of the inscription, appear to harmonize with its alleged antiquity. The description given of the sarcophagus itself—namely, a solid oak, hollowed out—adds very much to the evidence in favour of its genuineness. It is well known that this was not the mode of sepulture in vogue at the time the exhumation took place, and that it was occasionally, at least, adopted in the very early ages of the Christian æra. It is known also that the cross, the hallowed symbol of the Christian's faith and hope, was used in this way at a very early period; and there is no reason to doubt its having been employed to mark the grave of the great Christian king, and nephew of a man so distinguished in the Chruch as St. David, Bishop of Menevia.

Upon the whole, then, I am led by these considerations to the conclusion that it is more than probable that King Arthur had found a resting place, after his mortal wound at Camalet, in the precincts of the Abbey of Glastonbury; and that the interesting traditions connected with these beautiful ruins are founded upon fact.

At the close of this paper a discussion ensued in which Messrs. Warre, Bouverie, Freeman, Parker, Jones, and the

President took part. The Rev. F. Warre maintained that there were the strongest reasons to believe the tradition to be founded on fact. Mr. Freeman sifted the historical evidence, and argued strongly against the probability. Mr. Parker, on the other hand, observed that the custom of burying in a coffin formed of a hollow oak-tree agreed with that of the time at which King Arthur is said to have been buried here, and mentioned the skeleton found in a similar coffin near Scarborough, and now preserved in the Museum there, the bones of which are dyed black by the action of the gall of the oak in the moist clay in which it was buried, and hence is popularly called the Black Prince. He also observed that the thin leaden plate of a cruciform shape, with the rude inscription upon it, agrees exactly with many similar leaden plates found by the Abbé Cochet in early graves in the neighbourhood of Dieppe, in Normandy, several of which have been engraved in the "Archæologia." These graves are assigned by that learned antiquary to the Merovingian period, and this point has not been doubted by any of those who have examined the question.

On British Cattle Stations.

BY THE REV. F. WARRE.

AT the time when the aboriginal tribes of the Loegri inhabited the County of Somerset, probably long before the men of Galedin had repaid their hospitality by depriving them of a large portion of their richest territory, certainly long before the Roman eagle had extended his flight to these western islands or Christianity had settled among us, the Isle of Avalon, in later days celebrated through the world as the site of the earliest Christian church established in Britain, as the burial-place of the renowned Arthur, and through the middle ages as possessing one of the most splendid monastic establishments that the world has seen, must have been a peninsula, rather than an island. Surrounded on both sides by what was then an impassable morass, or rather a lagoon. Overflowed by the sea at every high tide, it was connected on the east side by an isthmus of but slight elevation above the surrounding moor with the higher ground which, beginning at West Pennard, extends in an easterly direction towards Bruton.

Now we know with historical certainty that Glastonbury was inhabited in very early days, that in the days of the Romano-Britons it had a monastic establishment which

existed in great wealth and splendour down to the time of the reformation, rendered illustrious by the residence of such men as St. Patrick, St. Paulinus, St. Dunstan, Gildas the historian, and many others. Tradition tells us that here St. Joseph of Arimathæa established the first Christian Church in these islands, and that here the Christian warrior King Arthur, having fought well and gallantly against the northern heathen who were overwhelming his country by their constantly repeated invasions, rested from his labours after the fatal fight on the banks of Camlan. So interesting is it to the historian, the Christian, and the poet, that no excuse need be made for endeavouring to learn all that is known about it, or for investigating the marks of ancient occupation which still exist around it, with even more affectionate care than the archæologist will always be ready to devote to the search after the truth of things however remote in date or apparently unimportant in extent.

Now, as I before said, Avalon in primæval days must have presented the appearance of a peninsula. Wearyal Hill, Chalice Hill, and the Tor, rising boldly from the surrounding morass, encircle a small valley, in which reposed in its majesty the mighty Abbey of Glastonbury. But long before the building of the wooden church, where it may be St. Paul himself had preached the gospel of peace, this peninsula had attracted the attention of the aboriginal inhabitants of the country, and a great cattle station had undoubtedly been established there. The wealth of the primæval Britons consisted, as we know, chiefly in herds of cattle, to which the marshy ground of the estuary no doubt afforded a plentiful supply of food, and of course enclosed places of shelter and refuge were required both for the herds and the herdsmen. These

cattle stations being very different in their arrangement from either the purely military stations or primæval towns of British or Belgic date which I have before described, may, if not mentioned, confuse students of primæval antiquity, and in order to help them in avoiding error I will briefly point out the indications which have led me to suppose that Avalon was in the very earliest days occupied by one of the most important of the cattle stations frequented by the British herdsmen, whose cattle pastured on the vast reed beds which then existed in the drier parts of the morass.

The road from Glastonbury to West Pennard passes, at about two miles from the former place, between two hamlets, the one called East Street the other Woodland Street, names suggestive to the ear of the archæologist of Roman occupation. These are situated on each side of the isthmus which I have mentioned as connecting the Isle of Avalon with the higher ground, and immediately on the Glastonbury side of these hamlets a vallum of great magnitude extends across the rising ground, completely from one marsh to the other, effectually separating the peninsula of Avalon from the higher lands. This vallum is known by the appellation of Ponter's Ball, which I imagine to be a word compounded of the Roman, vallum, and the Saxon, pindan, to enclose; and to signify the vallum of the enclosure, or the enclosing vallum. And if we suppose the marsh to have been, as it probably was, impassable, this earthwork, if surmounted by a palisade, would have rendered the whole peninsula as safe and desirable an enclosure for cattle as can well be conceived. From this vallum, if we walk to the Tor, we shall find every point of advantage occupied with works of defence. Series of terraces not only occupy the sunny slopes, where they might possibly have been

vineyards, but in places where the sun hardly shines, but by which easy access is afforded to the summit of the hill, all of them similar in character to the defences which I have elsewhere described as constituting the exterior works of regularly fortified places, and probably amply sufficient to protect the herdsmen from any sudden attack. But on the top of the hill, where we should expect to find the stronghold, there is nothing but a platform, apparently levelled by artificial means, on which in mediæval times stood the chapel of St. Michael, the tower on which hill constitutes a very remarkable feature of the landscape. The descent towards the town is defended by a series of earthworks of irregular design, which, though they may perhaps have been originally natural, have evidently been scarped away, so as to supply the place of the undoubtedly artificial terraces which defend the other side of the hill, two of them, indeed, overlap each other in a manner so exactly similar to the outworks defending the beacon at Castle Neroche, that I cannot hesitate to pronounce them at once to be artificial fortifications.

Somewhere in the beautiful little valley surrounded by these hills no doubt the herdsmen lived in peaceful times, and took refuge on the partially fortified Tor in time of need. On Wearyal Hill is a large enclosure, the entrance to which has been made narrow by scarping away both sides of the hill, and which, if surrounded, as it probably was, with strong palisades, would afford a secure refuge for a very large number of cattle.

Perhaps the most important of these cattle stations, or, if I may so designate it, the head quarters of the herdsmen of the marsh, was situated at Brent Knoll. This remarkable hill cannot fail of being noticed by every traveller from Bridgwater to Bristol. An elevated plain of some

hundred acres rises abruptly from the marsh, terminating at one extremity in a high and bold peak of similar character to Glastonbury Tor, the summit of which is crowned by an earthwork, which, from its position when seen from a distance, appears to be a military work of great importance. This, however, will be found on closer inspection not to be the case. The ramparts, though of considerable magnitude, and enclosing what may possibly have been a small village arranged on the threefold system, are of the simplest construction, with hardly any attempt at outworks beyond an escarpment on the steep side of the hill and a few terraces commanding the principal entrance. The whole, however, of the elevated plain before mentioned has been enclosed with a low agger, and probably a palisade, and must have resembled a large park. Within this enclosure there is a fine spring, and a more favourable situation for cattle, when driven by high tides or stormy weather from the marsh pastures, can hardly be imagined.

There is one more of these stations to which I wish to draw attention. This is situated on the first rise of the ground, at Cannington Park, from the level of the marsh. It consists of several large enclosures, with little, if any, attempt at systematic fortification. It is held by some authorities that the primæval tribe of the Cangi, who are said to have inhabited the country between Quantock and the sea, were rather a body of professional herdsmen than deserving the appellation of a distinct people. If this was the case, the fact of one of these stations being situated in the immediate vicinity of Cannington—a name probably derived from the early occupants of the district—considerably strengthens the probability of my guess at the purpose for which they were established.

There is hardly an elevated spot on the whole marsh, or

immediately near it, undisturbed by modern cultivation, which does not bear the marks, more or less distinctly defined, of early occupation. I imagine that most of these mark the sites of British Cattle Stations, of which none but, perhaps, the largest and most important were occupied except during the dry months of summer, at other times they must, from the nature of the ground, have been, before the construction of the Roman sea walls, almost totally inaccessible. Nor would the marshes, during the winter, have produced herbage of much value for bucolical purposes. This may account for the absence of more distinct traces of permanent residence than I have discovered at any of these stations. In confirmation of this opinion, I may state that in the immediate vicinity of my own house, at Bishop's Lydeard, a slight elevation of red sand runs out, like a promontory, into the line of meadow, which, at the time of which I am speaking, must have been a marsh, resembling, on a small scale, that surrounding Glastonbury; and that the field which occupies its ridge, and shows some faint marks of ancient works, is still known by the name of Half Yard, which, I believe, would signify the summer enclosure.

I have then now done my best to point out the different types of primæval earthworks most commonly met with in this district. They are, as I suppose, the aboriginal type, marking the sites of permanent fortified towns, distinguished by their threefold arrangement, somewhat analogous to that of a Norman castle. The purely military, or, as I suppose, Belgic type, distinguished by its concentric arrangement and the Cattle Stations, differing from both the others in the great size of their external inclosures, and the absence of any very important or complex military works, and, as far as I have been able to observe,

of any considerable provision for permanent residence. I cannot, however, finally quit a subject which ill health prevents me following any further, without recommending it to those who have health and strength, (for the pursuit to be successful necessarily implies exposure to weather and fatigue) as one which is sure to afford much innocent enjoyment, and I believe as likely to conduce to the "mens sana in corpore sano" as any one that can be found.

Report on the Natural History portion of the Museum.

BY W. A. SANFORD, ESQ., F.G.S.

AUGUST 9, 1860.

HAVING been requested by the Committee of Management to report on the state of the Natural History collection in the possession of our Society, I have the greater pleasure in doing so, as, although no great additions have been recently received, a very great improvement has taken place within the past year in the arrangement and condition of that which we possess.

I think I shall best serve the interest of the Museum by shortly stating what has been done in each department of Natural History during the past year, by noting the principal deficiencies, and by suggesting simple remedies for them.

With regard to the Geological collection. Mr. Parfitt, our curator, has examined the manuscripts of Mr. Williams, and in them he has discovered a clue whereby he has been enabled to restore to a very large number of the specimens of that gentleman's collection their approximate localities. He has arranged the whole of those for which we have

space stratigraphically, and he has named every specimen which presented sufficient characters.

It is hardly possible to estimate too highly the value of this work. The collection, comparatively useless before, is now of great value, both in a scientific and instructive point of view; and when those portions which are still unarranged are afforded space, it will probably be the best collection existing of the important series of rocks to which it belongs, namely the Devonian and Carboniferous series of Devon and Cornwall.

Of the greater part of the remainder of our Geological collection, although Mr. Parfitt has named nearly all the specimens, I regret to be obliged to state that, excepting as a mere reference to name specimens by, or for the tyro in Geology to become acquainted with the forms which are represented in the different series of rocks, it is comparatively useless, for but few of the localities are known, and for the higher purposes of Geology it is absolutely necessary that the exact locality and bed of rock in which the individual specimen occurs should be fixed.

The more friable and delicate saurian and fish remains have, during the past year, been covered with glass. The only fossils that now absolutely require protection are the larger mammalian remains from the Mendip caverns. Of these mammalian fossils we have a collection of great interest, containing many individual specimens which are either unique or nearly so, and many series of teeth and bones of extinct animals which show the variations the animals underwent in their growth. Among these two previously undetermined jaws have been shown to belong to the Spermophilus citellus, or pouched marmot of the Altai mountains, an animal hitherto not found elsewhere than in Siberia. This, among many others, gives an absolute proof

of the close connection which exists between the later cave fauna of England and that which now exists in Siberia.

It would be highly desirable that a catalogue should be published of the more important fossils we possess. If such were done in connection with other local museums it would much facilitate reference, and consequently the study of minute Geology.

The only fossil of importance we have received during the past year is a portion of the skeleton of a very large ichthyosaur, from Stoke St. Mary—I believe the first found in that locality. For this we are indebted to the kindness of Mr. Arthur Jones, our excellent secretary.

Our deficiencies in this department occur in the coal bearing and secondary formations, although we possess many fine specimens, the localities of but few are known, and, as I stated before, the collection is useless in the present state of Geology without them; it makes a fair show to the eye, but is useless for the purposes of science. It is, therefore, earnestly requested by the Committee of Management that those who take such an interest in our work as to favour us with specimens, should take care to affix to each individual fossil or rock specimen a short statement of the exact circumstances of its occurrence, including height of bed, its relative position to other beds, and any other detail of interest which may occur.

In addition to the collection of fossils it would be very desirable to form a good and well-arranged collection of rock specimens attached to each division of the geological series, so as to show the different descriptions of rock which are bedded in each formation, as well as the variations of the same bed in different districts. This might be attained if the members of the Society were to make a well classified collection of each rock they may know of in

their respective neighbourhoods, and would affix to the specimen a statement of the exact circumstances and thickness of the bed. The smaller the specimens are, the better, if they show the characteristic structure of the rock.

With regard to existing Plants and Animals, several considerable improvements in arrangement and additions to our collection have been made during the past year. The Herbarium is in good order, but it only contains 700 out of 1600 British flowering plants. If any person wishes to correspond with the Society for the sake of exchange, or in order to benefit us, a marked catalogue will be supplied him by the curator. We have no Cryptogamia, except a good collection of ferns and smaller marine algæ; and the microscopic forms of vegetable life are altogether wanting.

The only portion of our collection which is in a satisfactory state, as regards the lower orders of animal life, is the cabinet of British Shells. Of these we have 270 out of about 400 species. A similar arrangement may be made with regard to these as I have mentioned with regard to our collection of flowering plants.

Of the Sponges, Zoophytes, Polyzoa, Echinodermata, and Annelids, we have next to nothing; but the collection of Crustacea formed by the late Mr. Baker has been put in order, and, though small, forms a nucleus for a more complete set.

Arrangements have been made for the gradual formation of a complete series of Insects. A considerable number of species have been procured by Mr. Parfitt, and arranged with those of Mr. Baker's collection that were worth preserving. Additions to these are particularly requested.

All the specimens of British Fish we possess are now properly arranged and protected, in the same manner as the skeletons of reptiles, birds, and small mammalia which we received from the late Mr. Baker.

A commencement has also been made of a system by which, as we receive specimens, a systematic arrangement of British Birds and their eggs and nests can be carried out. The few specimens we possess of British Mammalia are now adequately protected.

Mr. Parfitt has mounted many of the skins of Indian birds which were in the cupboards, and he has put in order most of the specimens of various animals we had in spirits.

Altogether the Museum presents an orderly, systematic, and cared-for appearance, which is most creditable to our excellent curator, who is indefatigable not only in arranging and keeping in order the number of objects under his charge, but takes every opportunity of adding to the stock, both by his own personal exertions and by applying to his correspondents on our behalf.

The advantage which the Society possesses in having as their curator a person who, to an accurate knowledge of entomology and botany, joins a love for, and more than average acquirements in, other branches of Natural History, should not be lost sight of. Specimens sent to us will, if valuable, be taken every care of, and the utmost possible use will be made of them. It is trusted that this will encourage those who are fond of this great and growing science to aid in making our museum be, as it should be, the means of instruction to the young, and of study and reference to the advanced student.

W. A. S.

Somersetshire
Archæological and Natural History Society.

1859.

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The President, Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, and Secretaries, are *ex-officio* Members of the Committee.

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Societies in Correspondence

With the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society.

The Archæological Institute of Great Britain.
The Ecclesiological Society.
The Bristol and West of England Architectural Society.
The Architectural Society of Northampton.
The Sussex Archæological Society.
The British Archæological Association.
The Surrey Archæological Society.
The Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society.
The Kilkenny and South-East of Ireland Archæological Society.
The Suffolk Institute of Archæology and Natural History.
Societie Vaudoise des Sciences Naturelles, Lausanne.
The Lancashire Historic Society.
The Chester Local Archæological Society.
The Society of Antiquaries.
The Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society.
University College, Toronto.

Rules.

THIS Society shall be denominated "The Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society;" and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History, in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset.

II.—The Society shall consist of a Patron, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General, and District or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation, but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint; of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call Special Meetings of the Society, upon receiving a requisition signed by ten members. Three weeks' notice of such Special Meeting, and its object, shall be given to each member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee, (of which the Officers of the Society shall be *ex-officio* members) which shall hold Monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; five of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings, after the official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman, at Meetings of the Society, shall have a casting vote, in addition to his vote as a member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. All Manuscripts and Communications, and the other property of the Society, shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as members shall be proposed by two members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the members present balloting shall elect. The rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two members, and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

XI.—Each member shall pay ten shillings on admission to

the Society, and ten shillings as an Annual Subscription, which shall become due on the first of January in each year, and shall be paid in advance.

XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be balloted for as Honorary or Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When any office shall become vacant, or any new appointment shall be requisite, the Committee shall have power to fill up the same; such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

XV.—The Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions and Donations made to the Society, and shall pay all accounts passed by the Committee; he shall keep a book of receipts and payments, which he shall produce whenever the Committee shall require it; the accounts shall be audited previously to the Anniversary Meeting by two members of the Committee, chosen for that purpose; and an abstract of them shall be read at the Meeting.

XVI.—No change shall be made in the Laws of the Society, except at a General or Special Meeting, at which twelve members at least shall be present. Of the proposed change a month's notice shall be given to the Secretaries, who shall communicate the same to each member three weeks before the Meeting..

XVII.—Papers read at Meetings of the Society, and considered by the Committee of sufficient interest for publication, shall be forwarded (with the author's consent) to such periodical as shall be determined by the Committee to be the best for the purpose, with a request that a number of such papers may be printed separately, for distribution to the members of the Society, either gratuitously or for such payment as may be agreed on.

XVIII.—No religious or political discussions shall be permitted at Meetings of the Society.

XIX.—That any person contributing Books or Specimens to the Museum shall be at liberty to resume possession of them in

the event of the property of the Society ever being sold, or transferred to any other county. Also, persons shall have liberty to deposit Books or Specimens for a specific time only.

N.B.—One of the objects of the Society shall be to collect, by donation or purchase, a Library and Museum, more particularly illustrating the History (Natural, Civil, and Ecclesiastical) of the County of Somerset.

*** *It is requested that Contributions to the Museum or Library be sent to the Curator, at the Society's Rooms, Taunton.*

List of Members.

1859.

Those marked * are Life Members.

Abraham, T., *Dunster*
Acland, Sir P. P., Bart., *Fairfield House*
Acland, Sir T. D., Bart., *Killerton Park, Devon*
Acland, T. D., *Spreydoncote, Devon*
Acres, Rev. J., *Clevedon*
Adair, A., *Heatherton Park*
Addington, H. J., *Langford*
Adlam, William, *The Firs, Chew Magna*
Ainslie, Rev. A. C., *Corfe, Taunton*
Alford, H., *Taunton*
Alford, H. J., „
Allen, J. R., *Lyngford House*
Allen, Rev. C., *Stocklinch, near Ilminster*
Allen, B. T., *Burnham*
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Auckland, the Right Rev. Lord, Bishop of Bath and Wells, *Palace, Wells*

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Badcock, H., *Wheatleigh Lodge*
Badcock, R. G., *The Elms, Taunton*
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Bagehot, Walter, „

Bailward, J., *Horsington, Blandford, Dorset*
Baker, John, *Weston-super-Mare*
Baker, C. Gifford, *Seaton, Devon*
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Bartrum, J. S., 41, *Gay-street, Bath*
Batten, H. B., *Hollands, Yeovil*
Beadon, Rev. Canon, *North Stoneham, Hants*
Beadon, Edwards, *Highlands, Taunton*
Beadon, Mrs. Captain G., *Creech Barrow, Taunton*
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Blake, Downing, *Holway, Taunton*
Bluett, C., *Taunton*
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Bouverie, P. P., jun. „
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Dickinson, E. H., „
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Falkner, Frederick, „
Falkner, F. H., „
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Fisher, T., „
Fiske, H., „
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210 Leigh, Henry, 3, *Elm Court, Temple, London, E.C.*
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Murch, Jerom, *Cranfields, Bath*
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Norman, J. F., *Staplegrove, Taunton*
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Paget, Arthur, „ „
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*Portman, Lord, *Bryanstone House, Dorset*
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Quekett, E., *Langport*

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Raban, Lt.-Col., *United Service Club, London*
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Rawlinson, William George, *Taunton*
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Rogers, G., *Bishop's Hull*

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Rowley, Rev. W. W., *Weston-super-Mare*
Routledge, Rev. W.
Rowcliffe, Charles, *Milverton*

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Sanford, W. A., „
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Sealy, H. N., *Nether Stowey*
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*Seymour, H. D., M.P., *Knowle, Wilts*
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Sheppard, J., *Frome*
Sheppard, W. B., *Keyford House, Frome*
Sheppard, T. B., *Selwood Cottage, Frome*
Sheppard, Rev. H. F.
Shipton, Rev. J. N., D.D., *Othery*
Shore, J., *Whatley, near Frome*
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Smith, Richard, *Bridgwater*
Smith, Miss E. H., 30, *Royal Crescent, Bath*
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Speke, W., *Jordans, near Ilminster*
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Stradling, W. J. L., *Chilton-super-Polden*

Stradling, Miss, *Chilton-super-Polden*
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Symons, William, *Dunster*

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*Taunton, Lord, *Stoke Park, Slough, Bucks*
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Todd, Lt.-Col., *Taunton*
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Tomkins, George, *Wells*
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Trevelyan, Lady, „ „ „ „
Trevelyan, Sir C. E.
Trevelyan, Rev. E. O., *Stogumber*
Trevelyan, Arthur, *Tyncholm, Tranent, N.B.*
Trevelyan, Miss, *Nettlecombe Court*
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Turle, H., *Taunton*
Turner, A., *Staplegrove*
Turner, C. J., „
Tunstall, James, M.D., 35, *Brock-street, Bath*
*Tynte, Col. C. K. K., *Halswell House*
Tynte, Col. K., *Cefn Mabley, Glamorganshire*

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Vibart, James, *Chilliswood*
Voules, Rev. T. A., *Ash Hill, near Ilminster*

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Walker, L., 12, *Bryanston-square, London*
Walter, W., *Oldbury Lodge*
Walter, R., *Stoke-sub-Hamdon*

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Ward, Rev. J. W., *Ruishton*
Warre, Rev. F., *Bishop's Lydeard*
Warre, Miss, ,,
380 Warre, F., *Fyne Court*
Warren, J. F. H., *Langport*
Warren, Rev. J., *Bawdrip*
Webber, Rev. E. A., *Runnington*
Welch, C., *Minehead*
385 Welman, C. N., *Norton Manor*
Welsh, W. I., *Wells*
West, G., *Thurlbeer*
Weston, Plowden C. J., *South Carolina, United States*
White, C., *Beech Cottage, Wellington Road, Bromley-by-Bow, London*
390 White, F., *Wellington*
White, F. G., *Taunton*
White, Rev. James, *Bruton*
White, Rev. F. W., *Mere Vicarage, Glastonbury*
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395 Wickham, Rev. G. H. D., *Horsington Rectory, Wincanton*
Winter, Charles, *Bishop's Lydeard*
Winter, Mrs., *Priory, Ash Priors*
Woodforde, F. H., M.D., *Fairwater, Taunton*
Woodforde, G. A., *Castle Carey*
400 Wood, V. S., *Langport*
Woodland, J., *Bridgwater*
Wrangham, Digby G., *The Rocks, Bath*

Yatman, Rev. J. A., *Winscombe, Sidcot*
Young, J., *Elm Cottage, Taunton*

405 Bush, W., 7, *Circus, Bath*

1860.

Clark, Rev. W. R., *Taunton*
Elton, R. G., *Whitestaunton*
Ilchester, Lord, 31, *Old Burlington-street, London*

Members are requested to inform either of the Secretaries of any errors or omissions in the above list; they are also requested to authorise their Bankers to pay their subscriptions, annually, to Messrs. Badcock, or Messrs. Stuckey, Taunton; or to either of their branches; or their respective London Agents, on account of the Treasurer.

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Charles Wade

Vol. X.

SOMERSETSHIRE

Archæological and Natural History Society.

PROCEEDINGS

DURING THE YEAR

1860.

TAUNTON:
FREDERICK MAY, HIGH STREET.
LONDON: BELL & DALDY, 186, FLEET STREET.

1861.

SOMERSETSHIRE

Archæological & Natural History Society.

PROCEEDINGS DURING THE YEAR 1860.

VOL. X.

Ford. Ith. Taunton

CLAPTON CHURCH, SOMERSET.

From a Photograph taken expressly for the Somᵗ Archᵗ Society.

Somersetshire Archæological

and

Natural History Society.

Proceedings

DURING THE YEAR 1860.

VOL. X.

TAUNTON:
FREDERICK MAY, HIGH-STREET.
LONDON: BELL & DALDY, FLEET-STREET.
MDCCCLXI.

The Society is indebted to W. A. Sanford, Esq., the Rev. Thos. Hugo, and the Rev. H. M. Scarth, for the illustrations accompanying their several papers; and to the courtesy of Messrs. Parker for the use of several of their wood engravings; and also to J. S. Mackie, Esq., for the lithographs illustrating Mr. Moore's paper.

The Committee are not responsible for any of the statements or opinions expressed in the *Proceedings*, the authors of the several papers being alone answerable for the statements which their papers contain.

In p. 30, part I., an error occurs as to the arms on the shields on the Rectory-house, Congresbury—they are those of the See of Wells, of Beckington, and Pope, one of his executors.

W. A. J.

Referring to page 153, where I have mentioned an *Infusorium*, apparently of the genus *Chætospira*, I have this autumn found a similar animal in the Western Canal, attached to *Potamogeton*. It differs from the *Chætospira* described by Lachmann in having the bulb at the base of the tentacle almost obsolete, and by the form of the case, which is spread at the base by which it is attached, and not rounded like a Florence flask as in Lachmann's species. I propose to call this species *Chætospira dilatata*, from the form of the base. In page 154, *for* Lagotis *read* Lagotia.

W. A. S.

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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

DURING THE YEAR 1860.

PART I.

THE Twelfth Annual General Meeting was held at the Public Hall, Clevedon, on the 24th September, 1860. F. H. DICKINSON, Esq., President, having taken the chair, it was proposed by Mr. DICKINSON, seconded by Mr. SURTEES, and resolved, that Ralph Neville Grenville, Esq., be appointed President for the ensuing year, and that he continue in office to the close of the proceedings of the next Annual General Meeting.

Mr. GRENVILLE having taken the chair said that in opening the 12th meeting of this prosperous society, he had to thank them very sincerely for the honour they had done him in placing him in the President's chair. He hoped it would be a successful meeting. He had been able, through the kindness of one of the hon. secretaries (Rev. F. Warre), to look over the Report, which was of a most satisfactory nature. Of course the Society wanted money; every Society that he ever heard of did. He was glad to see some gleams of hope of that great desideratum being realised, which had occupied the attention of the Society for so many years, and had been so often mentioned by different Presidents and in

different reports—the obtaining materials for a County History worthy of Somersetshire. He trusted that as Hutchinson's "Dorsetshire" was being brought out in an improved and valuable form, so Collinson's "Somersetshire" would be brought out in a greatly improved and much more valuable form. In order to assist in obtaining a history, it was most important that accounts of old families in the county with heraldic devices should be sent to the Museum at Taunton, for nothing was more interesting than the history of the people who lived in those venerable houses of which Mr. Parker would give a description. Mr. Parker could tell nearly everything about the designs, conceits, and wishes of the architects and builders of those ancient houses; but when he came to the successive occupiers of them, there he stopped. Very little was known about the old families of the county; and it had often struck him that Somerset was a sort of standing evidence of the vanity of those who "think that their houses shall continue for ever: that their dwelling-places shall endure from generation to generation: and who call the lands after their own names." Where were Rodneys, of Rodney Stoke? Where were the Lytes, of Lyte's Cary? Where were the Fitzpaines, of Cary Fitzpaine? And where, he must also ask, were the Ralphs of Brompton Ralph, and the Nevilles, of Fifehead Neville? But though so many families were swept from the face of the earth, there were a few men of the county who could give a good account, not only of themselves, but of their ancestors. The Warres of Hestercombe must have been men of valour and renown, and their descendant had earned for himself no little distinction. He was the Garibaldi of their excursions, and as he trusted, would take the present excursionists safely into the heart of the country, and,

without shedding any blood in the conflict, lead them into every stronghold of antiquarian interest. Mr. Elliot, one of their secretaries, had kindly lent his magnificent illustrations of Somerset, which went a great way to promote a good county history, for when people saw views of the places and relics that existed, it made them inclined to hear something about them. He should be wanting in his duty as President if he did not allude to the loss which they all felt in the absence of the Rev. W. A. Jones, and their deep sympathy with him in the affliction that kept him away. It was not for him to enter into the excursions that would be taken; but he could not help reminding the company that there existed in the town an interesting link which united the past ages with the present, for the church contained the honoured ashes of the venerable Hallam. In conclusion he could only regret, as they had elected him as their President, that he could not, as the President did last year, invite them to his home. Butleigh was not within reach of the excursionists; otherwise it would have given him great pleasure to have followed the example of his worthy predecessor.

The Rev. F. Warre then read the report, which was as follows:

ANNUAL REPORT.

"Your Committee have again, at this twelfth annual meeting, the satisfaction of reporting favourably on the state and prospects of the Society. The financial difficulties under which it laboured, owing to the defalcations of the late curator, have in great measure been relieved, and the committee have felt themselves justified in publishing a volume of *Proceedings* which, it is confidently hoped, will be found in no degree inferior, either in matter or illustration, to those which have preceded it. It must not,

however, be forgotten that it has been by the voluntary exertions of the members that this has been effected; and your committee again repeat that the only effectual means of increasing the usefulness of the Society is to increase as much as possible the funds at its disposal for carrying out the purposes for which it was established.

"These objects have not been lost sight of during the present year; and though, owing to a variety of circumstances, particularly the financial difficulties before alluded to, no great advance has been made towards the attainment of our chief desideratum—a good County History; still that object has been kept steadily in view, and it is confidently hoped will eventually be obtained.

"The Society appears certainly not to have lost ground in the public favour. The number of members is very regularly kept up, the loss by death and change of residence being fairly supplied by the accession of new members.

"Many valuable additions have been made to the Museum in both departments, and the arrangement of the specimens of Natural History very much improved. For this the Society is in great measure indebted to the exertions of Mr. W. A. Sanford, and Mr. Parfitt, the curator.

"Conversazione meetings have been held during the winter at the Shire Hall, Taunton, and appear still to possess interest with the educated public.

"On the whole, your committee feel that they may safely congratulate the Society upon the progress it has made in increasing the feeling in favour of archæological and natural science, in its prospects of stability and increased usefulness, as well as upon the generally evinced desire of its members to assist in producing all those good results to literature generally, and particularly to the

history of our own county, which can only be hoped for from the co-operation of members.

"It has been considered expedient that, from the present time, the President elected at one annual meeting shall continue in office till the end of the next annual meeting; and also that the commission heretofore paid to the curator on subscriptions or arrears collected by him shall cease, and that in lieu of that commission an addition of £10 shall be made to his salary."

The CHAIRMAN moved, and Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE seconded, the adoption of the Report, which was carried unanimously.

R. G. BADCOCK, Esq., Treasurer, read the following Statement of Account, which was received and adopted:

The Treasurers in account with the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society.

DR.

	£	s.	d.
To Balance of former account	2	5	10
,, Entrance fees	10	0	0
,, Sale of Baker's effects ..	4	0	0
,, Donations	43	11	0
,, Ditto., as per Ven. Archdeacon Moysey for County History	10	0	0
,, Arrears of Subscriptions ..	18	0	0
,, Annual ditto	141	0	0
	£228	16	10

ASSETS.

Subscriptions and Arrears unpaid	90	10	0
	£90	10	0

CR.

	£	s.	d.
By Expenses at Annual Meeting at Glastonbury ..	3	7	2
,, Advertising	3	11	3
,, Coals	7	15	0
,, Glass Case	4	4	0
,, Carpenter, glazier, and petty sundries	7	7	0
,, Gas and Candles	1	14	2
,, Postage and Carriage ..	6	11	3
,, Stationery	5	6	1
,, Illustrations of Vol. IX...	29	3	6
,, May for Printing, &c., Vol. IX.	90	14	9
,, Curator's Salary 1 year to August 4, 1860	25	0	0
,, Palæontographical Society	1	1	0
,, Insurance	1	2	6
,, One year's rent to January, 1860	25	0	0
,, Taunton Institution, being their share of Baker's effects	7	6	0
,, Ford for Illustrations ..	3	5	0
,, Clarke, (A. A.) for Anastatic drawings	4	4	0
,, Large Oak Table	2	2	0
,, Balance		2	2
	£228	16	10

LIABILITIES.

Half year's rent	12	10	0
Balance	78	0	0
	£90	10	0

Mr. SURTEES moved a vote of thanks to the Bristol and Exeter Railway Company for the facilities afforded by them to members of the Society in connection with the meeting.

Mr. R. BADCOCK seconded the proposition, which was unanimously adopted.

The Vice-Presidents of the preceding year were then severally re-elected with the addition of F. H. Dickinson, Esq., ex-president, Sir Wm. Miles, Bart., M.P., and R. Wilbraham Falconer, Esq., M.D.

The Treasurers, Secretaries, Local Secretaries, and the Curator were also re-elected, and the name of the Rev. Frederick Brown, of Nailsea was added to the list of Local Secretaries.

The following gentlemen were re-elected on the Committee:—J. R. Allen, Esq., W. W. Coker, Esq., W. E. Gillett, Esq., M.D., W. M. Kelly, Esq., M.D., W. Metford, Esq., M.D., J. F. Norman, Esq.

The following gentlemen (proposed at a Committee Meeting) were balloted for and duly elected Members of the Society: Mr. Lewis H. Rugg, Clement Bush, Esq., Rev. W. Jackson, Rees Mogg, Esq., the Rev. H. H. Greenwood, and E. A. Freeman, Esq.

A paper was then read by the Rev. THOS. HUGO, M.A., on "Mynchin Buckland Priory and Preceptory," which is printed in Part II.

Mr. PARKER delivered an address on the Domestic Architecture of the Middle Ages, in which he stated that Somersetshire was the richest county in England for old houses. There was hardly a parish in the county which did not contain an Elizabethan dwelling or one more ancient still. The generality were of the fifteenth century. He was not aware of any of so early date as the twelfth century, for they were naturally and necessarily rare. The

finest example of the houses of the thirteenth century which existed in England, or perhaps in Europe, was the Bishop's residence at Wells. Its arrangement was not unusual for the period. The lower story was vaulted, used only for cellars and entrance-hall, the living apartments being entirely upstairs. The principal hall was on the first floor, and probably the chapel at the end of it. This house was found in the fourteenth century not sufficiently large on state occasions—bishops in those days being important lords—and another palace was built by the side of it, which was now a ruin. That appeared to him to have been merely state apartments, with of course a kitchen, but not a regular dwelling-house. The Bishop's residence was a most remarkable pile of buildings altogether. He knew nothing equal to it. It formed part of a group of building in connection with the church, chapter-house, and close—all constituting one magnificent conception, giving an idea of the magnificence of the middle ages they could hardly obtain elsewhere. Mr. Dickinson informed him that the houses of the Canons were in the town, and not in the close, although they usually were enclosed within a wall. There were several houses of the fourteenth century in the county. One they visited last year at Meare, the hall of which was also upstairs. It was a common practice in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries to have the lower story of the house vaulted, so that the cellars or store-rooms were fireproof. There was also a good house of the fourteenth century near the church at Martock, very curiously arranged.

The specific notices of the Manor House and other domestic buildings which would be visited in the course of the Excursions, were reserved, and will be found in the following Report.

Mr. R. A. KINGLAKE called the attention of the meeting to an advertisement from which it would appear that the Collection of Mendip Cave-bones made by Mr. Beard was for sale. Lord Talbot de Malahide and others thought it very desirable to preserve to the county a collection so valuable in itself, and especially interesting to the members of this Society from the locality to which they belonged.*

The Excursion.

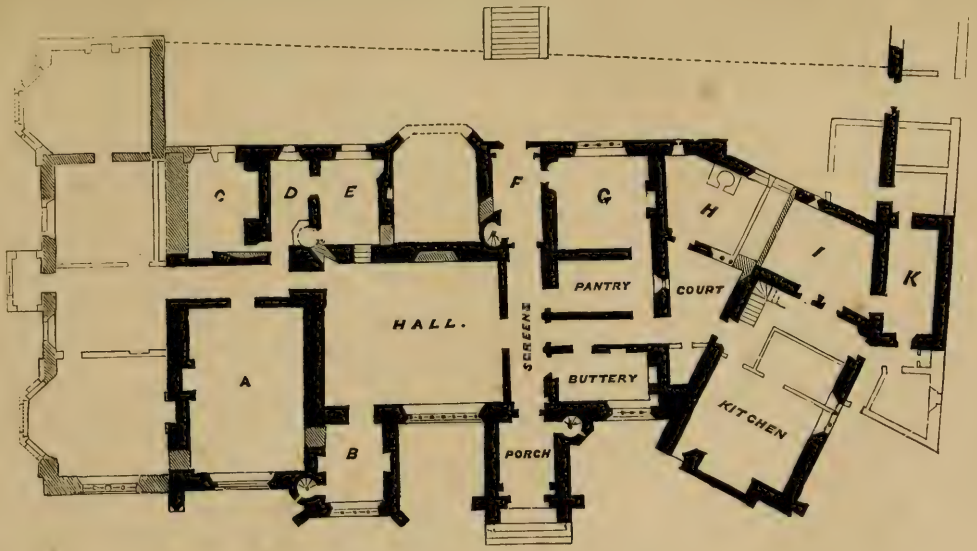
Soon after two o'clock a large party started to visit some of the places of interest in the neighbourhood. The Rev. T. Bliss, of Clevedon, acted, on this and the succeeding days, as conductor; Mr. Parker undertook to give descriptions of the houses, manorial or monastic, that were visited; and Mr. Freeman of the churches. The explanation of camps and earthworks fell to the Rev. F. Warre.

The party first halted at Clevedon Court, the residence of Sir A. H. Elton, Bart., and Mr. Parker gave the following description of the house :—

CLEVEDON COURT is a house of the time of Edward II., or the first half of the fourteenth century, much altered and added to, and with parts rebuilt, but of which the main walls remain, and the original plan may still be

* Immediately after the Annual Meeting, the Committee of the Society appointed a deputation to examine the Collection of Cave-bones offered for sale, but finding from their report that it was not Mr. Beard's collection, no further steps were taken in the matter. If the latter collection is ever dispersed, there are many specimens which the Society ought not to allow to go out of this county. In fact the Williams' Collection purchased by the Society, and Mr. Beard's Collection at Banwell are each the complement of the other.

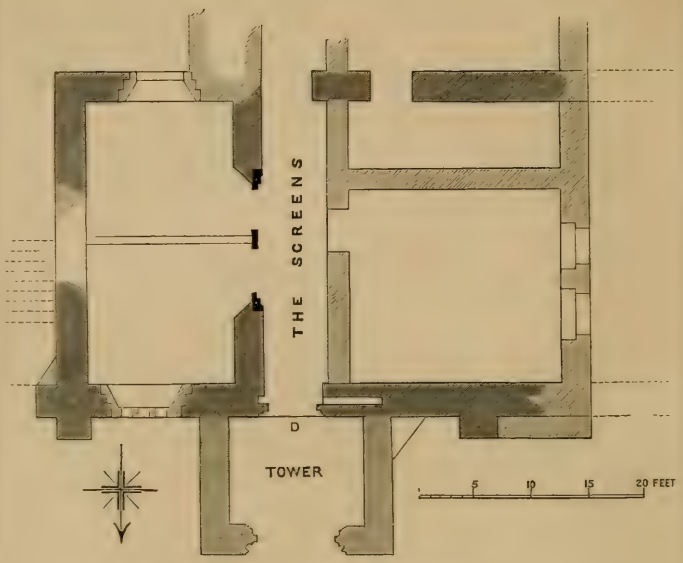
A Parlour, now Library, under the Solar.
B Closet, under the Ladies' Bower.
C Store-room.
D Garderobe-turret?
E Staircase. N.B. Under *E* is the ancient cellar, entered from *D*.
F Back Porch.
G Servants' Hall?
H Bakehouse.
I Scullery.
K Servants' Bedrooms?



PLAN OF CLEVEDON COURT.

NATURAL HISTORY

NATURAL HISTORY



PLAN OF MANOR-HOUSE, CLAPTON-IN-GORDANO.

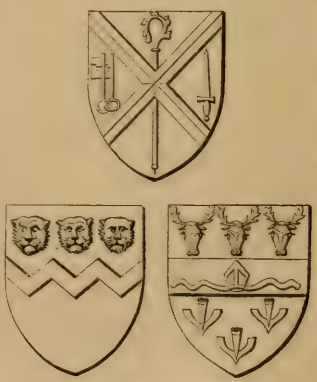
VIEW OF MANOR-HOUSE, CLAPTON-IN-GORDANO.

ROOF OF THE HALL, CLEVEDON COURT.

BACK OF TICKENHAM COURT.

PORCH OF THE RECTORY-HOUSE, CONGRESBURY.

DETAILS OF PORCH, CONGRESBURY.



SHIELDS, CONGRESBURY.

traced. This may be said roughly to be the common plan of the Roman capital letter H, the hall making the cross stroke, but a very thick one; at any rate, it forms the central division of the house, with the rooms for the family at the upper end, and the offices for the servants at the lower, according to the usual arrangement.

The entrance is through a porch, which possesses the two original doorways with Decorated mouldings, and in the jambs of the outer arch are the grooves for the portcullis; over this porch is a small room, in which was the windlass for raising and lowering the portcullis, and in the angle is a winding or newel staircase leading to this room, and to the music-gallery over the screens or servants' passage. At the further end of this passage, or at the back of the house, is another porch, F, also with a portcullis groove, a room over it for the windlass, and a newel staircase. Three doorways, with Decorated dripstone mouldings, open as usual from the screens to the buttery, the pantry, and the central passage leading to the kitchen, which must always have been external in a detached building, and not part of the house, and probably on the same site as the present one; although it has been rebuilt in the Elizabethan period, it is placed diagonally to the main building, leaving a small triangular court, which effectually prevented the smell of the cooking from entering the house. The offices which touch upon this court are the servants' hall, G, which seems to be part of the original building, though much altered. H the bakehouse, and I the scullery, have also been much altered, but have old work in parts; K is a tower divided into several stories, now occupied as servants' bedrooms; it is a very plain building, with small square-headed windows, and has very much the appearance of being part of the work of the

fourteenth century, although if so, it is a very unusual feature of that period.

The great hall is much modernized: the windows and fireplace and wainscotting are all modern, that is, not mediæval, but not very recent. The walls are original, with two gable ends and a chimney on each, and in each gable are windows shewing that the buildings attached to the hall at each end were originally much lower than the hall. There is a peculiarity in the chimneys,—the flue of each is not carried down any lower than the head of the window under it, and was originally open to the hall, so that it would appear that the smoke from the fire on the hearth or reredos in the centre of the hall was allowed to circulate freely among the open timbers of the hall and escape at the two extremities without any central louvre; or these chimneys may have been an extra precaution in addition to the louvre. The present roof is modern and ceiled, and as no ancient view of the house is extant shewing a smoke louvre, we have no evidence whether there was one or not; it is quite possible that this arrangement of short chimneys open below to the hall may be an earlier one than the smoke louvre in the centre of the hall. The dais has disappeared, but the position of it is obvious enough. At one end in the front of the house, where at a later period the bay window would be, is a small square room or closet, forming the basement of a tower, corresponding to the porch at the lower end of the hall. Over this closet is another small room, with a rich Decorated window with reticulated tracery in the front, and at the back a small window of the same period opening into the hall; this was probably the lady's bower or private chamber: the only access to it was by a newel staircase from the small room below, and so from the hall; the

present entrance from the adjoining chamber has been cut through the old thick wall. At the opposite end of the dais, and consequently at the back of the house, was the ancient cellar, E, under a modern staircase, and by the side of it the garderobe turret, D, with a newel staircase in the corner, now destroyed: behind the dais is a large room, probably the parlour, and over it the solar, or lord's chamber. This wing has been much altered in the Elizabethan period, but the buttress at the external corner is Decorated work, and shews that these rooms are partly original. The room at the back of this, marked C, belongs to the Elizabethan period, and has been at some period turned into a kitchen. The west end of the house, beyond this, comprising the present dining-room and drawing-room, is partly modern, with bay-windows thrown out, in the style of the Strawberry-hill Gothic; but the walls and the end window in the front belong to the Elizabethan work, built by Wake, and the back wall extending from C to the west end has had an arch pierced through it to extend the dining-room.

The dotted lines on the plan connecting E and F represent a modern wall, and the straight line at the back with the steps shews the trench cut out of the slope of the hill at the back of the house. The remains of fortification are very slight, and there is no appearance of any moat; indeed, the situation on the slope of a hill hardly admits of one, and the house could never have been intended to stand a siege.

The Church and Manor House of Tickenham were then visited.

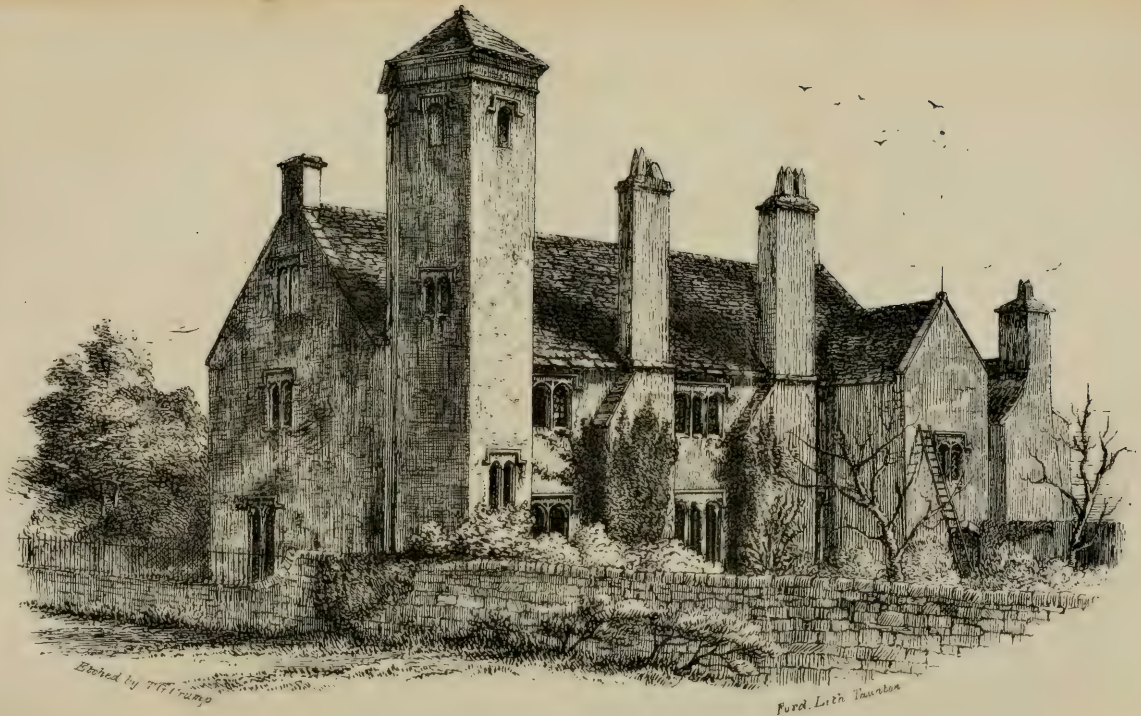
Tickenham Church. Mr. Freeman said: The Church is of several dates. It consists of nave and aisles, chancel and south aisle, and western tower. The piers are Early-

English, very plain, and some of them seemingly unfinished; one especially on the south side, with small angle shafts with flowered capitals. The font is of the same date. The windows are of various dates, from Trefoil-lancets to ordinary Perpendicular; the most remarkable are some square-headed ones with fine flowing tracery. The roofs are throughout of the local coved form, except in the south aisle of the nave, which has tie-beams. The tower is Perpendicular, a good plain specimen of the Bristol type, but disfigured by the loss of its parapet and pinnacles. There is a cross-legged effigy in the north aisle.

Tickenham Court. Mr. Parker observed that Tickenham Court is a manor house, probably of the time of Henry IV., or the beginning of the fifteenth century, and without any appearance of having been fortified, though it was no doubt enclosed by an outer wall. The hall is nearly perfect, and stands at a right angle to the other part of the house, so that we have two sides of the quadrangle only remaining. The hall windows are each of two lights, with flowing tracery resembling the Decorated style of the previous century, but the arch mouldings are of the Perpendicular style; the outer arch is pointed, the inner arch, or rear-arch as it is called, is segmental. The roof is perfect, of plain open timber of simple construction, the principals arched to the collars, with good pannelled stone corbels. At the lower end are the usual three doorways to the kitchen and offices, now destroyed, which probably occupied another wing, making a third side to the court; at the upper end of the hall is the arch of the bay window, now destroyed. The remaining wing of the house is divided into two stories, with square-headed windows of the same period; and at the back of this wing are two turrets, one octagonal for the staircase, the other square for the garderobes.

TICKENHAM COURT SOMERSET.

From a Photograph taken expressly for the Somt. Archl. Society.



PORTISHEAD MANOR HOUSE, SOMERSET.

From a Photograph taken expressly for the Somerset Arch.l Society.

From thence the members proceeded to CADBURY CAMP, situated on a high eminence, commanding a most extensive and beautiful panorama of land and sea. This encampment was considered by the Rev. F. Warre to be one of the most perfect though simple specimens remaining of the Belgic kind of British earthworks. Without entering on the question whether or not there were any people in this country earlier than the Celtic occupation, though probably there were, it was known that the southern part of the island was occupied by a tribe called the Loegri, who were cognate with the Cymri of Wales. About three hundred years before Christ, there came Galedin (Belgæ) from "the land of waters," supposed to be the mouth of the Elbe. They came in naked ships, probably boats without sails, and landed first in the Isle of Wight, where they were received with great hospitality; but they repaid the kindness by overrunning a great part of the country, their frontier extending from the mouth of the Parrett to that of the Axe. Therefore there were two distinct races occupying the country at an early date, if not three. There was a marked difference in the camps; in some there was a threefold arrangement of earthworks, of which the innermost was the most strongly fortified. These, he considered were aboriginal encampments, of which Worle-hill was an example, while the present was a Belgic one. He was confirmed in this idea by the fact that on the first range of high ground on the other side of the Parrett and Axe, there was a series of works, every one of which was of the primeval type. Nor did it militate against it that Worle-hill and Dolberry-hill were within the conquered territory, for probably the Belgæ, like other invading forces, would use what came to their hand. Mr. Warre expressed regret at having heard it was contemplated to destroy the earth-

works at Worle by making a road over the hill, and said that if the object was to increase the value of the property, the Society could not interfere, but if it was a mere fancy, he trusted it would not be carried out. He believed that the encampment on Worle hill was one of the oldest in Europe, and had reason to think that it was earlier than Dolberry. He then pointed out marks of a trackway, on each side of which were hut circles. This trackway, Mr. Warre explained, led to a village without the works, and which probably arose there in a similar way to those that had sprung up in the neighbourhood of castles.

On their return the members and their friends dined at the Royal Hotel, and a CONVERSAZIONE MEETING was held in the evening at the Public Hall.

After a few remarks by the President, Mr. Freeman gave a detailed account of the various objects of interest examined during the excursion that day.

Lord TALBOT DE MALAHIDE desired information in regard to the flint knives, called cave knives, exhibited in the museum. Were they found in the same caves with the remains of the extinct animals, and could the date of them be determined in any way?

The Rev. F. WARRE said that these knives were found mixed among the rubble of the hut circles on Worle-hill. He had found similar ones on the Quantock hills. At the suggestion of Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Warre gave an account of the remains he had found in the hut circles. There were at the top six to eight inches of surface mould, after which he came to rubble from the hill, then to skeletons, bearing marks of extreme violence, and apparently of two different races—one a gigantic race, with skull presenting the most uncivilized appearance, the other smaller and more advanced. With them were found iron weapons.

Under these skeletons and weapons was another deposit, from four to six feet, then a layer of black earth, with burnt sticks, and little stores of grain of different kinds, curious glass beads, and fragments of pottery of an exceedingly early period. He conceived that the burnt remains were to be attributed to the time of Ostorius, who probably destroyed the place, but did not occupy it. A deposit of rubble then took place, and when Ceaulin overran the country, a fierce conflict most probably took place, in which the Britons were defeated, and some of the killed were left in the places where he had found the skeletons. He had also found the bones of animals now extinct.

The Rev. F. Brown enquired whether Mr. Warre thought the flint knives were of the same date as the extinct animals?

The Rev. F. Warre said he thought they were not. He had no doubt they were used by the early inhabitants of the country, but he had seen so much of the power of water in carrying things down from the surface by drift, that he was inclined to think they were washed down in that way.

Lord Talbot de Malahide said he had a very curious flint knife in his possession which was found in the bed of a river in Ireland, and there was a piece of moss wrapped around it as a handle. It was remarkable that it should have been so perfectly preserved, but he saw no reason to suppose it was of so early a date as had been ascribed to these implements. He had also two flint arrow-heads which were found on the field of Marathon, and were probably used on the side of the Persians at the battle of Marathon.

In the course of some further conversation, the Rev. F. Warre expressed the opinion that the fortifications at

Worle were probably constructed with the aid of Phœnician engineers, and remarked that the works surrounding the city of Carthage were on a precisely similar plan. He did not suppose that the flint knives belonged to the people resident in the camp, for he found them mixed up with the earth, and not with the other remains in the huts. Probably they belonged to a ruder race.

Extracts were then read from a paper by the Rev. H. M. Scarth, on the subject of ancient sculptured stones, particularly those recorded to have stood in the cemetery of the Abbey at Glastonbury. The paper suggested the desirability of bringing together all the engravings of sculptured stones that had been published, and issuing them in a well edited volume. This paper is printed in the present volume, Part II.

A paper on the "Inland Mollusca of Somersetshire," by the Rev. A. M. Norman, M.A., was presented at the meeting, and will be found printed in Part II.

Mr. Parfitt, the Curator of the Society, then read a paper on the "Pouched Marmot," remains of which species have recently been identified by Hugh Falconer, Esq., M.D., among the Mendip Cave bones forming a part of the Williams' collection in the Museum of this Society. These remains consist of two right rami of the lower jaw, which are the only portions yet discovered in this country of the *Spermophilus erythrogenoides*. In the present day, the Altaï mountains are known as the habitat of the representatives of this species—the pouched marmot.

"The formation of a portion of the Altaï mountains is something similar to the Mendips and Quantocks, being apparently the equivalent of the old red sandstone, scarfed with carboniferous limestone, and it is in the chinks and holes of the latter these animals live gregariously or in

small societies. The Altaï mountains occupy an area of about 40,000 geographical square miles—a wide space for these little creatures to move about in, compared to the narrow limits of the Mendips, if confined to these hills in England. The height of the snow line of the Altaï chain is not very satisfactorily ascertained, but it is probable that its general elevation does not fall short of 8,000 feet. At the town of Fykalka, situated in the southern slope, at the height of 4,000 feet above the sea, the land is cultivated with success, yielding barley, rye, oats, millet, and summer wheat, besides garden vegetables.

"The writer of the article 'Altaï,' in the *Imperial Gazetteer*, says a marmot peculiar to these regions abounds in the vicinity of the snow. These animals are preyed upon by the glutton and the bear. The royal tiger prowls through the steppes on the south, and haunts particularly the reedy shores of Lake Balkhash ; it is not unlikely, therefore, that his predatory incursions sometimes extends into the Altaï. How exceedingly like the picture of our Altaï, the Mendips of some ages ago! although I am somewhat inclined to think that this marmot might have lived down to the period when man took possession of this island, and indeed to, perhaps, ages afterwards. These animals being used as food, even now, were most likely used as such by the early inhabitants of this country, and very likely became extinct through man's agency.

"The climate of the Altaï, where these animals are found, does not imply that the climate of England has undergone any material change since these animals inhabited the Mendips, and the tigers roamed along its slopes, or the deer or Irish elk bounded over the plains. Analagous animals are still found proximately inhabiting the Altaï chain, while we know that at a period probably long after

the extinction of the cave hyæna, bear, and the great Elephas primigenius and the rhinoceros, in England, these elephants and rhinoceri found appropriate food in the birch and spruce forests of Siberia.

"The dental formula of the genus *Spermophilus* is exceedingly like that of the common squirrel, the molars of the lower jaw very much so; so that a fragment, or even one ramus, without the incisors, would be somewhat difficult to determine. The incisors would at once settle the question, as they are much longer and stronger in every way. The upper jaw is different, the squirrel having only four molars, while the marmot has five on each side. In their natural arrangement they are arranged by systematists, close together; in fact, the marmots are called by the natives generally 'ground squirrels.'"

SECOND DAY.

Excursion.

A large party started at ten o'clock. The road lay through a beautiful country, with charming green lanes, in many places overshadowed with trees. The village of Walton-in-Gordano was the first visited.

Walton Castle was pronounced by Mr. Parker to be a a house of the time of James I. or Charles I., built in the mediæval style. The ruins of the old church are of the period of Richard II. The font was removed from it to to the new edifice, which also has the old porch re-erected.

Not far distant is Weston-in-Gordano, where the Rev. W. Hautenville read an account of the Percival family, by whom the church was founded. The Rev. F. Browne

also gave some particulars of several of the more distinguished members of the same family. This church has been very beautifully restored. Weston church is one of a very singular and almost unique ground plan, closely resembling the yet more singular one of St. Mellons, in Monmouthshire. It consists of nave, chancel, south porch, tower south-east of the nave, with a chapel east of it attached to the south side of the chancel. This, with a sanctc-bell cot over the gable of the nave, produces a highly picturesque outline. Of detail there is little or none. The tower is Early English, the rest chiefly Perpendicular. The church contains a monument to the Percivals, which Mr. Freeman said was the latest instance he knew of a French inscription on a monument in England, the date being 1483. The Rev. F. Warre remarked that at Hinton St. George there was a monument to Sir Amias Poulett, which was a century later, and had an inscription in French. A curious gallery over the doorway in the porch was the subject of much speculation. Above it was a niche, and a passage made in the wall led to it. Remains of a similar gallery in the porch were afterwards found in other churches, and it was considered a local custom; according to the tradition of the county, it was used for singing or chanting a part of the service on certain occasions, as at weddings. Such a gallery is quite distinct from the usual room over the porch, erroneously called the parvise.

The following notice of this gallery has since been supplied by Mr. Elliot, one of the Secretaries, in a paper read by him at one of the conversazione meetings of the Society :—

" I subjoin a description of this gallery, extracted from a letter to the Editor of the *Ecclesiologist*, by the Rev. W.

Hautenville:—'The style of this church is Perpendicular, this, therefore, is the character of the platform to which I wish to draw your attention. It is carried across the width of the porch, the ends of the two beams which support it being inserted in the side walls, and it seems as if the moulding on the front had originally been carried downward in an arched form at each end so as to rest on corbels; as on removing the yellow dab, square holes were found beneath the line of the front. The stone moulding of the doorway, above the platform has been cut away, so that the beam next the wall rests on the projection thus formed. On the two beams the floor must have been placed, but below this there is a framework, deeply moulded on the under side, which evidently contained panels. The whole of this platform was highly coloured, the red being still visible (as was the niche). Access to it was gained by a staircase formed in the thickness of the east wall of the porch.' Mr. Hautenville says he is informed that the staircase is an addition to the porch, and suggests that the platform from its small size and the fact of its having a moulded front, could be no part of the parvise floor. In this I quite agree with him. The measurement of the porch is 13ft. long inside, by 16ft. wide; the gallery 10ft. long by 3ft. wide; the moulding in front 1ft. As it remains a subject of discussion among those members of our Society most competent to give a decided opinion on the subject, I will offer one fact, which, it appears to me, may account for its construction. It seems quite evident that the gallery was added to the porch long after its erection. During the 14th century we find ceremonies accumulated, which would require additions and alterations in the original plan of the fabric for their observance. Mosheim tells us that the other additions that were made in the Roman ritual in the

15th century, related to the worship of the Virgin Mary, public and private prayers, the traffic of indulgences, and other things of that nature, and that we need not a particular detail to convince us that in this century religion was reduced to a showy compound of splendid trifles. Now just at this period, May 6th, 1424, we find Sir John Percival presented Walter Toucker to the living of Weston, on which occasion John Reynolds, rector of Portishead, whose emoluments had been infringed by his parishioners frequenting the church of Weston, lodged a petition with the bishop, and obtained an injunction that the said Walter Toucker should not, under a penalty of the lesser excommunication, admit any of the parishioners of Portishead to any of the religious rites of his church of Walton, to the prejudice of the said church of Portishead. May not then some of the additions made in the Roman ritual at this period have been celebrated in the church porch of Weston, causing the erection of the gallery, and attracting the parishioners from the neighbouring church of Portishead?"

Weston once had a manor-house, but it has entirely disappeared. The remains of an old building still in existence was pronounced by Mr. Parker to be part of a barn of the 15th century.

Portishead Church has a nave, north aisle, chancel, and western tower, and, like Weston, keeps its sanctc-bell cot. The tower has been described and criticised at length by Mr. Freeman in the Society's *Proceedings* for 1851, p. 57. The other points worthy of notice are the east window, a specimen of transition from Geometrical to Flowing tracery, the flying arch across the north aisle from the pier of the chancel-arch, something like those at Rushden and Thedor, in Northamptonshire, the stone pulpit, the coved

roof of the nave, and the font, Norman with Ionic volute, like those in some Roman capitals.

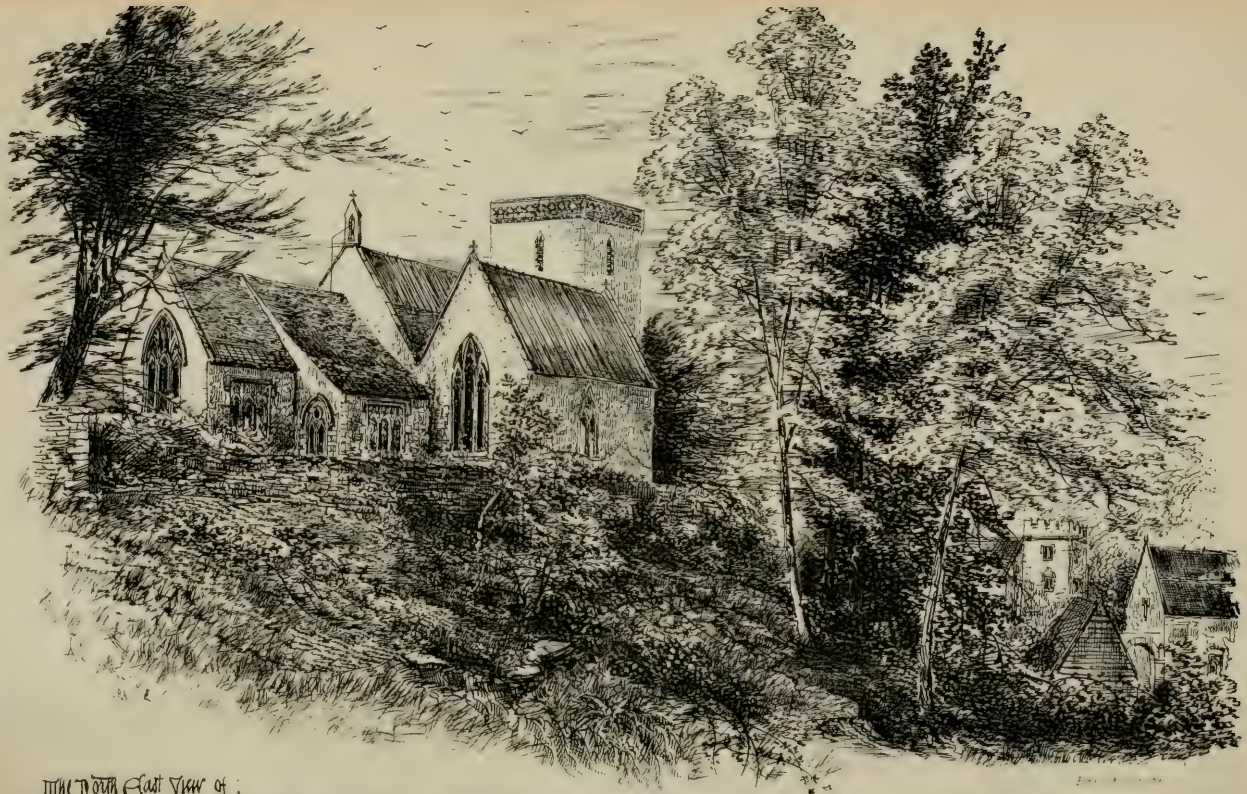
The manor-house at Portishead was described by Mr. Parker as being of the date of Henry VIII., with a turret in the Elizabethan fashion—a very good example of the period.

Portbury Church formed the next point in the programme. The churchyard contains two noble yew-trees, said to be as old as the edifice itself. At the foot of one of them a former parish officer has immortalised himself by the inscription "Francis Bevan, *Churchworn*, 1733." The Church consists of nave and aisles, chancel, and western tower. The pillars have Norman bases, and there is a fine doorway of that style under the porch. The Norman jambs of the chancel arch remain, but on one side at least they seem to have been built up again together with the arch itself, which at present is not in the centre of the church. There are some very pretty Early English sedilia in the south aisle. The greater part of the church was built by Lord Berkeley, and some of the windows are very like some of those in Berkeley church, Gloucestershire. The church is large and curious, and especially remarkable for its great width, but it is heavy and awkward in its general effect both within and without, and the tower is very poor.

The Priory at Portbury is a mere ruin consisting of four bare walls. Mr. Parker conceived the part remaining to have been the prior's house, but whether there were any extensive buildings beside it was impossible to say. The date was that of Henry VII. The Rev. T. Hugo said the house was one of St. John of Jerusalem, and was only required to accommodate two or three knights.

Portbury Camp was then examined. The Rev. F.

NATURAL HISTORY



The North East View of:
CHAPMAN : IN : GORDANO : Somersetshire. Alfred A. Clarke. 1861.

Warre pointed out the entrance to it, between two circular earthworks, from which a path appeared to have led to the top of the hill, which is surrounded by an earthwork. He considered it to be intended merely for the protection of cattle. In a marshy district, where the land was sometimes overflowed, it was necessary to have places where the flocks might be driven, and the fortifications were just such as to prevent the herds and herdsmen from sudden attack. The largest work of this kind he had seen was Brent Knoll.

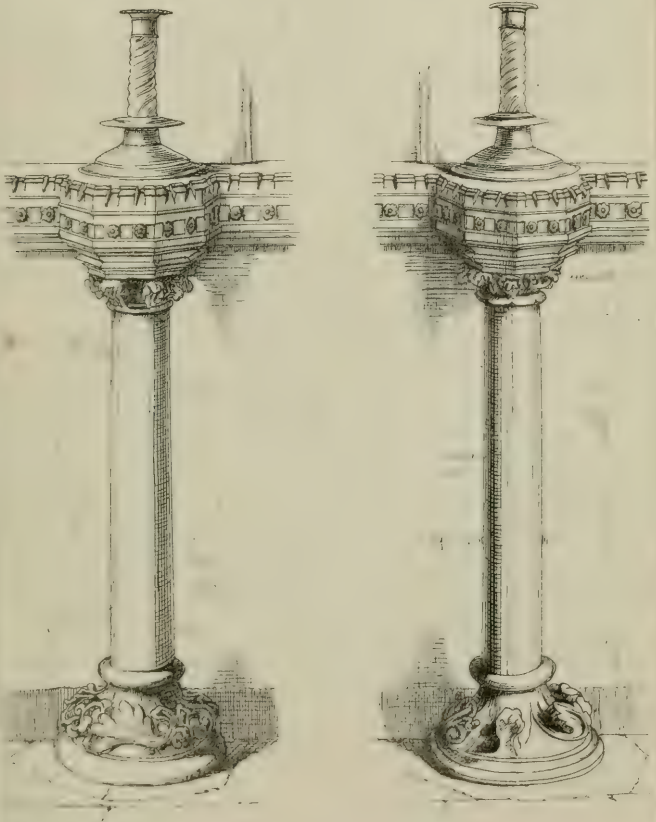
The party then arrived at CLAPTON-IN-GORDANO.

Clapton is a much smaller church, of singular and irregular outline. It consists of a nave, chancel and western tower, with a sort of transept chapel north of the the nave, and a very narrow chapel north of the chancel. This arrangement allows the introduction of a large squint, growing into an archway, like so many in Pembrokeshire, and some elsewhere. A great part of the church is 13th century work, including the tower, the upper stage of which batters very much. It retains its original corbel-table, but on it has been placed a later parapet, without pinnacles. But the most remarkable thing in the church is certainly the bench-ends, contemporary with the older parts of the building, and therefore about the earliest wooden seats in England. The church seems to be threatened with "restoration," to consist in the removal or destruction of these seats, and the removal of the pulpit from its original place. A strong opinion was expressed by all present as to the needless and barbarous character of these changes, which it may be hoped the good sense of the parish may avert. Another curious feature is the reredos, in which are two Early English capitals headed to those upwards and used as bases. Illustrations of the bench-ends and reredos are given in the present volume.

The manor-house of CLAPTON-IN-GORDANO must once have been of considerable importance, and although but little now remains, that little is highly interesting. The interior of the present house (which is only a portion of the original one) has been thoroughly modernized, the last remnants of antiquity having been cleared out in 1860, the old partition walls destroyed, and the very curious early screen fairly turned out of doors. The original parts of the house are of the time of Edward II, but the only portions now remaining visible of that period are the doorway under the porch and the buttresses; but a considerable part of the walls belong to the same work, and the very beautiful screen (which has now been built up under a stone arch in the open air) as the entrance to the garden, opposite to the entrance door. Mr. Parker saw no reason to consider this wooden screen as any earlier than the arch in which it stood, or the doorway, although Mr. Godwin puts it a century earlier; the tracery in the head appears to belong to the original work, and no such tracery was in use in the early part of the the 13th century, nor before the time of Edward I. or II. Still it is probably the earliest and most remarkable domestic screen in existence. The tower-porch was added in 1442, as appears from the arms over the door, Arthur and Berkeley impaled. The chancel of the church and the family chapel on the north side of it were rebuilt at the same time as this tower. It very commonly happens that some part of the church is rebuilt at the same time as a manor-house. The gate-house is of the time of James I.

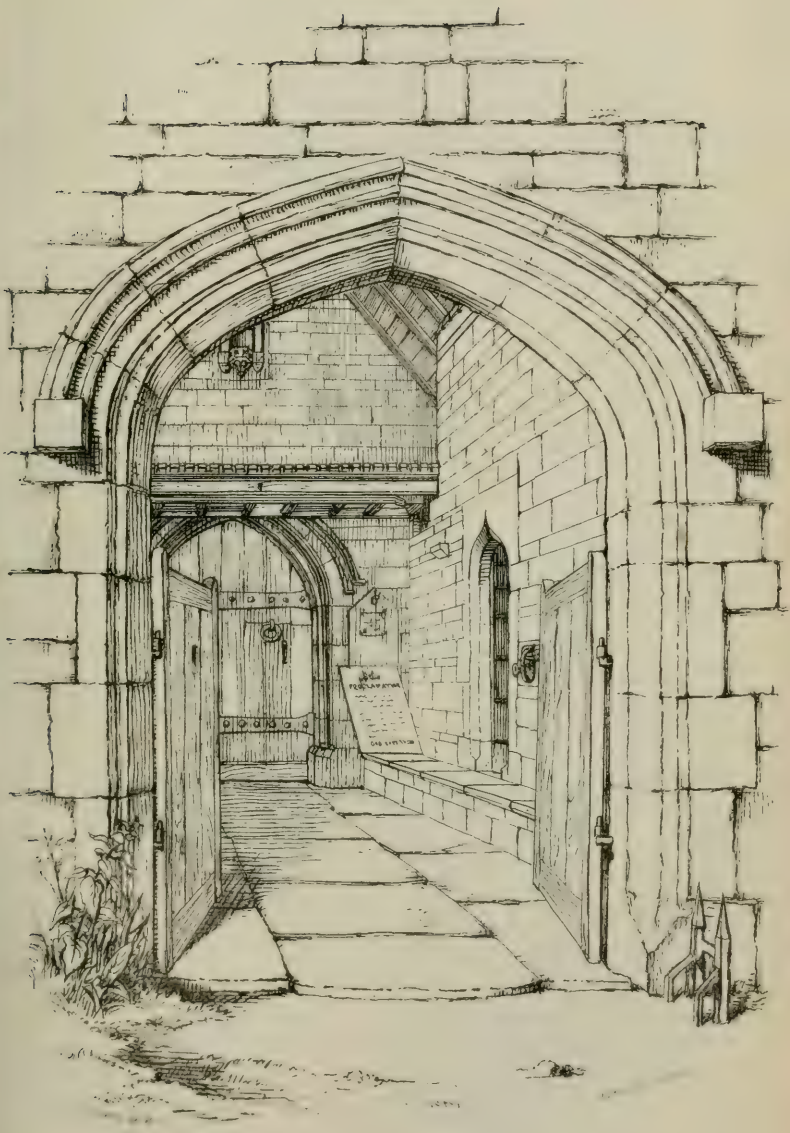
After leaving this place, the party returned to Clevedon.

A public meeting was held in the evening, at which Mr. Dickinson, Mr. Freeman, Mr. Parker, and the Rev. F. Warre, severally gave an account of the proceedings of the



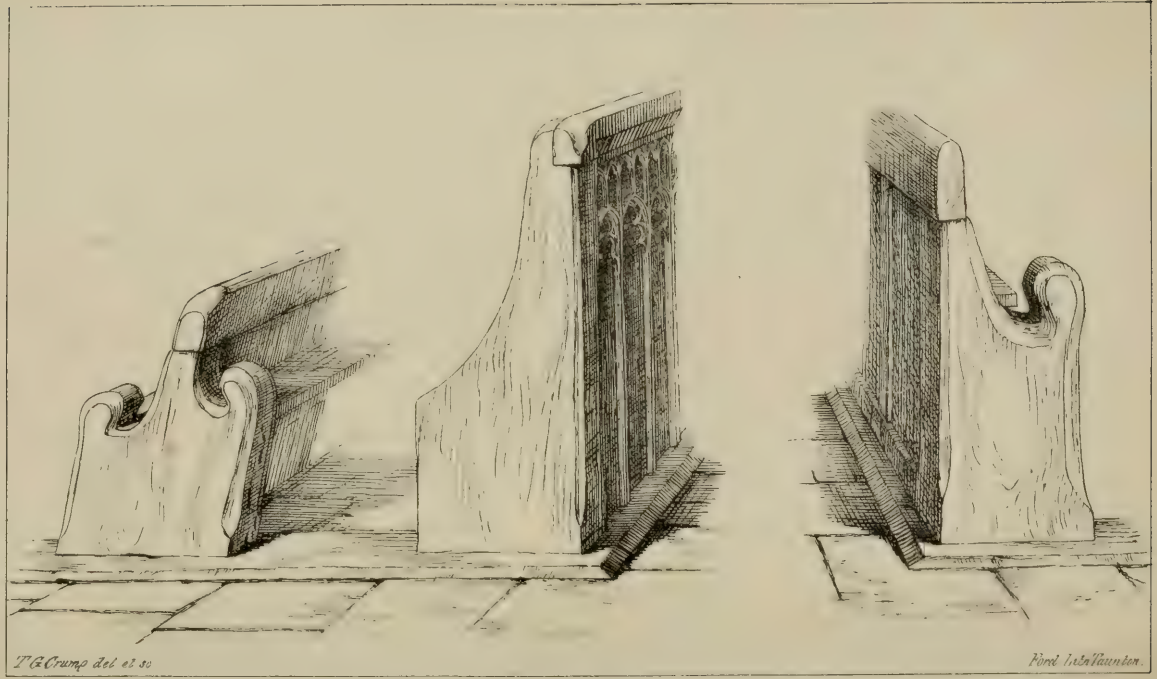
REREDOS, CLAPTON CHURCH, SOMERSET

Lord, Ink. Jan. 1902



NATURAL HISTORY

WESTON-IN-GORDANO SOMERSET



BENCH ENDS, CLAPTON CHURCH.

day. Mr. Freeman mentioned that at Walton a notice was placed in the church saying that the initials "I.H.S." meant "Jesus the Saviour of Men" (*Jesus Hominum Salvator*). This was a mistake, the more accurate form of the monogram is I.H.C., that is simply the common Greek abbreviation of the name *IHΣOTΣ*—the C form of the sigma being very common in MSS.

The Rev. F. Browne gave some memorials of the family of Gorges, and an outline of the history of Nailsea Court. This court was once occupied by the notorious Major Wade, who took an active part in the Monmouth rebellion, and proved a false friend to his associates. Capt. Rogers, a relative of this Major Wade, captured a Spanish vessel containing 500 bales of Pope's bulls, each bale containing 16 reams, intended for South America. The same person brought Alexander Selkirk from Juan Fernandez. The rev. gentleman read some very curious extracts from the Nailsea vestry books. One was in 1792, and related to a payment by the minister "to the viper woman for making a child on John Lovell, at a guinea a-week." This entry was long a source of difficulty to him; but in 1852 he found it stated in *Notes and Queries* that Pliny, Galen, and other ancients attached medicinal properties to the flesh of vipers. In Madame de Sevigné's letters there occurred an order for ten dozen vipers, two to be taken each day. He supposed that the woman had made viper-broth, and given it to Lovell's child. In 1715 there was entered one shilling for leather for the bell, and the head of an "oter," but in another place the churchwarden spelt it "the head of an author." The same year there was an entry, "Paid Dr. Lovell for a whip for the church, 2d." "Paid Dr. Lovell for whipping dogs at church, 31 weeks, 1s. 9d." It puzzled him to think who this unfortunate

medical man could be that was paid 1s. 9d. for whipping dogs 31 weeks; but on the next page he found—"Paid Dr. Lovell for mending Catherine Poole's shoes, 2d." The last entry was, perhaps the most unfortunate, as it was for whipping the vagrants,—"Paid John Tucker for entertaining those that looked after two vagrants till they could be whipped, 3s. 2d."

Mr. Freeman remarked that viper-broth was in use within his remembrance, and that the office of dog-whipper was a recognised one in some cathedrals.

Mr. Dickinson asked Lord Talbot de Malahide whether it was correct that an Act of Parliament had been passed in reference to treasure trove.

Lord Talbot de Malahide said that he had a bill prepared and laid upon the table of the House of Lords; but he found the difficulties were so great that there was no prospect of its passing. Some of the difficulties were technical, and were of a very ridiculous kind, but it appeared that, in order to a bill being passed, it must originate in the House of Commons. The Society of Antiquaries in Scotland had prevailed on the Government to offer to pay the full value for all articles of the kind found in that country; and he himself had memorialised the Treasury to adopt a similar practice in England and Ireland. He had information to shew that this had been done in Ireland, and there was reason to believe that the arrangements were nearly completed in England; but he must confess that the difficulty of getting anything like an answer from the Chancellor of the Exchequer was such as he could not have conceived. The law of Scotland was different from that of England. In Scotland everything that was found in the earth belonged to the Crown; in England only articles of the precious metals; and in some instances the Crown had waived its

privileges, and given them to private individuals. Hence the difficulty of passing an Act, in which the rights of all these persons would be involved.

THIRD DAY.

Excursion.

Another excursion took place this day. The route commenced with NAILSEA CHURCH and MANOR-HOUSE. The manor-house is chiefly of the time of Elizabeth, with an earlier part, of the reign of Henry VIII. Some of the rooms are handsomely panelled, and in one of them the arms of the Cole family are carved above the mantel-piece.

Nailsea church is a small Perpendicular building, consisting of nave, chancel, western tower (a fair specimen of something between the Bristol and the Taunton type), south aisle running part of the way along the chancel, so as to form a chapel, matched by one on the north side. At the junction of this with the nave is a remarkable staircase to the pulpit. The nave-piers are of a rather unusual section. There is no chancel-arch, but corbels with curious sculpture supported the rood-beam, an arrangement found also in several neighbouring churches where the chancel-arch is present.

At a short distance from Nailsea is CHELVEY. The church of this parish has memorials of the Aish and Tynte families. One of the latter is an incised slab of the 13th century—a mode which Mr. Parker stated is common in France, but very rare in England, where brasses are generally used. The doorway is Norman, and there are some 13th century windows. There is a place in the pulpit for an hour-glass.

Chelvey Court is a mansion of the reign of James I. It

has a fine illuminated and gilt mantle-piece, a noble staircase, and several panelled rooms. The house contains a secret chamber, probably intended for the concealment of a Roman Catholic priest. It was built by an ancestor of the Tynte family, to whom the estate belongs.

The party next drove towards BROCKLEY COMBE, and passed up that fine and romantic defile. The sides are deeply wooded, and high limestone rocks appear above and between the foliage. The loftiest of these rocks reaches a height of 300 feet. But few spots are there in Somerset exhibiting a more wild and varied beauty. Descending from Broadhill-down, and passing close to Barley-lodge, once the residence of Hannah More, the party arrived at WRINGTON.

The house in which Locke was born adjoins the churchyard. The church is a noble edifice. The lofty nave, with its clustered pillars and foliated capitals, the shafts carried up and supporting angels with shields, the fine Perpendicular windows and clerestory, present a picture rarely equalled in parochial churches. The chancel is small, compared with the church, and in the Decorated style, having been retained from an earlier building when the other part of the church was rebuilt.

At Wrington and Yatton Mr. Freeman enlarged at greater length than elsewhere on the principal features of those two splendid churches; but as his remarks chiefly consisted of a demonstration on the spot of criticisms made in his several papers before the Society, it may be enough to refer to his two essays in the Society's volumes for 1851 and 1852, especially to the criticisms on Wrington tower at p. 55 of that for 1851. One or two points, however, it may be well to mention here. The nave would have been much finer had there been six bays instead of

four. As it was, the nave of Martock church was grander, having greater length and richness. Mr. Freeman corrected a statement that had been made—that he had said it was the finest tower in the world. His words in the Society's *Proceedings* are, "the finest square western tower, not designed for a spire or lantern, in all England, and therefore possibly in the whole world." He did not compare it with towers of totally another description, or with those of cathedrals and abbeys.

Leaving Wrington, CONGRESBURY was soon reached; and here also is a large church, but one of a different character. The tower is surmounted by a spire. Mr. Freeman made some remarks on towers and spires, saying that the comparison could hardly be made with fairness in Somersetshire, where the towers surpassed those of any other district; while the few spires, like this of Congresbury, were rather commonplace. Spires should be studied in Northamptonshire, where there are very few great towers without spire or octagon. Titchmarsh is almost the only example of any importance; but the spires, both Early and Perpendicular, are as fine in their own way as the Somersetshire towers are in theirs. The comparison indeed lies between two equal forms of beauty, the tower being the perfection of dignity, and the spire the perfection of elegance. The pillars of the south aisle are Early English, and are surrounded by detached shafts, while the opposite aisle is Decorated. This peculiarity gives a singular appearance to the church. The detached shafts were added in the course of restoration. Mr. Freeman remarked that they were not there when he last saw the church, but there was no doubt that they originally existed, as the bases were there. The clerestory is Early Perpendicular, and is remarkable for its great number of small windows, set close

together, in a way more usual in the east than the west of England. Some Decorated windows remain, especially some square-headed ones with remarkable tracery.

The RECTORY-HOUSE has a very remarkable porch, the arch of which is richly ornamented with an imitation of the well-known tooth-ornament of the 13th century, but really built about 1470 by the executors of Bishop Beckington, the arms over the doorway, cut in the original stonework, being those of the see of Wells, and of the executors, Pope, Sugar, and Swann, the same as in the Vicars' Close, at Wells, so that this house was built about the same time with that work. An engraving of the porch is given in the present volume.

It is remarkable that in the chapel of the Vicars' Close some fragments of Early English sculpture of the time of Bishop Joceline are built in as old material in the spandrils of the window arches. This would lead us to suspect that the tooth-ornament here also is old material used again, as often happens, but in this instance it does not appear to be the case; it seems to be clearly copied, although such an example is almost unique; probably those executors had a taste for the earlier style, and introduced it when they could.

At YATTON the manor-house is so exactly on the same plan as Clevedon Court, that there can be no doubt that it is a copy of it on a much smaller scale, and at a later period the style is Perpendicular, but early in the style, probably about the same age as Tickenham Court, *circa* 1410.

At Yatton, where the excursion terminated, the fine church met with great admiration. Mr. Freeman again commented at length on the building, but for most of his criticisms we may again refer to the Society's volume for 1852. He also pointed out the gradual way in which the

church had been rebuilt. A Decorated window in the south transept shows that a cross church of the earlier Somersetshire type preceded the present one. The chancel, which is Early Perpendicular, was first rebuilt, then the central tower, and the transepts remodelled, probably without departing from the scale of the older church. But on reaching the nave the ideas of the builders enlarged, and the present magnificent nave was added on a scale quite disproportioned to the eastern part. Not being hampered by any western tower, they were able to carry it out to a greater length than that of Wrington which was a great advantage. At the west end is a wooden gallery which, as it closely agreed with the style of the nave and was clearly not recent, both Mr. Parker and Mr. Freeman were inclined to look upon as an ancient west gallery, being not quite unique, though exceedingly rare. It appears, however, from information received from Mr. Barnard, the vicar, that it was made, about 40 years ago under the direction of Mr. Lyson the antiquary, which accounts for a resemblance to ancient work very unusual at that time. The tower is surmounted by an unfinished spire; a feature not unusual, Mr. Freeman said, in this district, but exceedingly rare in those parts of the country where spires were numerous. In Northamptonshire, where there were so many spires, he only knew of one incomplete, and that was at Naseby, and was said by the people to have been broken during the famous battle. Near the church is a good house of the 15th century, the exterior perfect, with the interior modernized.

The party having left the church, thanks were voted to the local secretary (Rev. T. Bliss), to Mr. Parker and Mr. Freeman, to the ladies for their company, and to the President for presiding. The proceedings of this very gratifying and successful anniversary then terminated.

Conversazione Meetings.

1860-61.

1860, *November 26th—First Meeting.*

On the Ladies.—The President for the year, R. Neville Grenville, Esq.

On the Limits of Animal and Vegetable Life.—W. A. Sanford, Esq.

„ *December 17th—Second Meeting.*

On Charles Albert, Piedmont and Italy.—R. Henderson, Esq.

On the Teutonic Mythology.—Rev. W. R. Clark.

1861, *January 21st—Third Meeting.*

On the Porch of the Church of Weston-in-Gordano.—W. F. Elliot, Esq.

On Portable Aquaria.—H. J. Alford, Esq.

Historical Pictures of Taunton and the Neighbourhood.—Rev. W. A. Jones.

„ *February 25th—Fourth Meeting.*

On some of the Antiquities in the Society's Museum.—Rev. F. Warre.

On Entomology.—H. C. Trenchard, Esq.

On Rachel, Lady Russell.—R. Henderson, Esq.

„ *March 18th—Fifth Meeting.*

On the Origin of Species, according to the views of Darwin, illustrated from Professor Owen's Homologies.—W. D. Crotch, Esq.

On Somersetshire Sequestrations in the time of the Great Rebellion.—W. F. Elliot, Esq.

Historical Pictures of Taunton, No. 2.—Rev. W. A. Jones.

The Museum.

The following donations in the Natural History Department have been presented to the Museum of the Society since last Annual Meeting:—

A large mass of Favosites polymorpha; also a small specimen of the same (polished), presented by Master Arthur Elliot.

Neuropteris gigantea and pecopteris (species ?); Favosites cervicornis; Cyathophyllum elongata (?); two specimens of shelly clay (polished), one from Yeatminster, the other from Long Burton; specimen of chalcedony; ditto of carbonate of lime; two potatoe stones; piece of fossil wood; specimens of strontian; two fossil crustaceans (Xanthopsis Leachii); Syringopona reticulata; Lithostrotion basaltiforme; Cardium (species?); Terebra (ditto); specimen of iron from Blackdown; several specimens of marble from Cattledown; from the collection of the late J. H. Payne, Esq., presented by Mrs. Payne.

Fossil sponge, found at Coombe St. Nicholas, presented by Mr. Scarlett.

Lithostrotion (species ?), found at Cadbury Camp; Platycrinus lævis, Clevedon; Spirifera (species) ditto; Mamillated iron, from near Clapton church, presented by Mr. Parfitt.

Specimens of Iron Ore from Cogenhal, Northamptonshire, presented by Rev. C. Whalley.

Specimens of the horns of Strongyloceros spelœus, from Pitcombe, by Lord Talbot de Malahide.

Spotted Rail (Gallinula porzana), presented by W. A. Sanford, Esq.

Ephialtes (species ?), from the Rev. Thomas White, of Bruton.

Specimen of coal, kerosene oil, wax and candles made from the same, from Maine, U. S., presented by Rev. P. C. Pratt, chaplain of H.M.S. *Hero*.

Plagiostoma gigantea, from Otterhead quarry, presented by Mr. Charles Goodland.

Two snakes, by Mr. Warren.

Sword Fish, by Mr. H. Roberts.

Plagiostoma gigantea, by Mr. H. Davis.

Orbagium bifasciatum, by Rev. T. Sotheby.

Coal fossils, from Mr. Solomon Lainey, through F. H. Dickinson, Esq.

Specimens of flint by Rev. O. S. Harrison, Thorn Falcon.

Large Ammonite, by Mr. H. Seymour, Taunton.

List of Archæological Donations, &c., to the Museum:—

Roman and British Coins, by the Rev. F. Warre.

Shilling of Queen Anne, by Mr. Edgar.

History of Shepton Mallet, by Mr. J. E. Farebrother, the author.

The arms of Henry VII. in plaster, from an old house in East-street, Taunton, presented by Mr. R. Parsons.

Part of Roman Draining Tile and Roofing Slate, also

fragments of pottery, found at Seaton, presented by Sir W. C. Trevelyan.

Four Floor Tiles, from the old house in East-street, Taunton, presented by Mr. R. Parsons.

The works of King Alfred the Great, 2 vols., 8vo. ; an engraving, framed and glazed, of the Alfred jewel ; presented by Rev. Aubrey Townsend, D.D., Bath.

Rubbings from the church of St. Just, Cornwall, &c., by Rev. W. A. Jones.

Twenty Roman Coins (silver), found at Holway in the year 1831, including those of Constans, Constantius II., Julian II., Jovian, Valentinian, Valens, Gratian, Valentinian jun., Theodosius, Arcadius and Honorius, by Wm. Blake, Esq.

Publications Received from Societies, &c.:—

East Anglian Notes and Queries for July and October, 1860.

Journal of British Archæological Institute.

Bi-monthly Journal of the Kilkenny Archæological Society.

Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society, pts. 1, 2, 3.

Journal of the Archæological Association.

Journal of the Royal Dublin Society.

Bulletin de la Societé Vaudoise.

The Archæological Mine, from the Author.

On Roman Remains at Bath, by Rev. H. M. Scarth.

On Roman Walls at Dax, by C. Roach Smith, Esq.

Palæontographical Society's Journal for 1858, *purchased.*

ERRATA ET ADDENDA.

Page 10, *note* *, *for* 457b *read* 467b; *note* ‡, *for* IV *read* VI. —*P.* 11, *n.* *, *add* MS. Harl. 6968, Cart. p. 19.—*P.* 12, *line* 8, *for* Tunecote *read* Tunecot; *l.* 11, *for* Bremesmore *read* Fremesmore; *l.* 13, *for* Toustoke *read* Toustok; *l.* 25, *for* Merestone *read* Mereston; *n.* *, *for* m. 9 *read* m. 6, *and add* Rot. Hundred. Edw. I., pp. 70, 94.—*P.* 13, *l.* 20, *for* Henbiry *read* Neubiry.—*P.* 20, *n.* *, *for* ad. 9, d. *read* ad q. d.—*P.* 23, *l.* 5, *for* messago *read* messuage; *l.* 21, *after* years.* *insert inverted commas.*—*P.* 24, *l.* 2, *after* that *insert* the; *l.* 23, *for* park *read* parish.—*P.* 27, *l.* 9, *for* Priory *read* Preceptory.—*P.* 30, *l.* 2, *for* Prunslee *read* Prunesiee.—*P.* 36, *l.* 8, *to* Hawlay *add* or Hawley; *l.* 10, *to* Dawson *add* or Dauson.—*P.* 58, *l.* 5, *for* 1350 *read* 1280.—*P.* 60, *l.* 6, *after* Mile *insert inverted commas.*—*P.* 62, *l.* 15, *after* Bourgchier *insert* , Prioress,—*P.* 74, *l.* 6, *insert* John Samweys, or Samwise, requested to purchase the farm of the manor of Toller, with the rectory of Toller, and Wynforde, on the 23rd of February, 1540; *l.* 25, *for* Bucklande *read* Buclande; *l.* 28, *for* seid *read* said.—*P.* 75, *l.* 13, *to* Staplehcys *add* or Staplehayes; *l.* 14, *to* Riden *add* or Roden.—*P.* 77, *l.* 27, *to* Claveshey *add* or Chalveshey.—*P.* 78, *n.* *, *add* Appendix, No. XXII; *n.* †, *remove* Appendix, No. XXII.—*P.* 89, *l.* 19, *for* LAEME *read* LALME.—*P.* 92, *l.* 6, *for* he'nt *read* h'ent; *l.* 33, *for* 155 *read* 153.—*P.* 93, *l.* 18, *for* morabant *read* morabant'; *l.* 36, *for* Buckland *read* Bukland.—*P.* 99, *l.* 25, *for* Som's' *read* Sum's'.—*P.* 100, *l.* 11, *for* Bromfild *read* Bromfeld. —*P.* 102, *l.* 8, *for* Priorisa *read* Priorissa; *l.* 32, *for* n'ror *read* n'ror'.—*P.* 103, *l.* 25, *for* sequens *read* sequenc'.—*P.* 104, *l.* 38, *for* tene' *and* face' *read* ten'e *and* fac'e.

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY,
1860, PART II.

PAPERS, ETC.

Nynehin Buckland Priory and Preceptory.

BY THE REV. THOMAS HUGO, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.S.L., ETC.,
HON. MEMBER.

AMONG the many delightful roads by which a traveller in the west may reach on all sides the fair town of Taunton, he will find few, if any, more agreeable than that which runs from Borough Bridge to the village of Durston, and then, with West Monkton at a short distance on the right and Creech S. Michael on the left, leads him through our favorite Bathpool, and by its picturesque mills, either along the ancient highway, commonly called Old Bathpool Lane, under Creechbury Hill, or by the windings of the Tone and the Priory Fields, to the busy streets and the consequent termination of his journey. He will not have advanced far on the route that I have here laid down, when the matchless vale of Taunton Dean, with its churches and steeples, its mansions and parks, its corn-fields and groves, and its noble framework of Neroche and Blackdown, above the sunny shoulders of Thornfalcon and Stoke, of Orchard

and Pickeridge, opens wide before him, and he only relinquishes the charms of the more distant prospect for the shady lanes, the luxuriant vegetation, the tall trees, the lovely river, and the snugly sheltered homesteads, of which his descent into the lowlands soon gratifies him with the closer view. After passing the hamlet of West Ling, and when he is within half a mile from Durston, he may observe in a meadow on his right hand some curious inequalities of the surface, contracting and expanding with that certain definiteness and regularity of outline which assures him of the presence of design on the part of the constructors, though it is more than likely that he may be unable to offer an explanation of the intention which not the less certainly actuated them in their labours. On his left, at the distance of a field from the road, is a modern mansion, and adjoining to it are some agricultural buildings and court and garden walls of an earlier age. These last are the only features which the place now presents of occupation more ancient than his own, save the roads and hedgerows that may have been there for centuries.

Quiet, and still, and lonely is the present aspect of the spot, and yet it was once a scene both of contemplative privacy and of active industry; and they who owned and occupied it were members of a Community that had a long and singular history, and bore a distinguished part in the great world of men and of things. It was the site of the Priory and Preceptory of Buckland, Mynchin Buckland, or Buckland Sororum, one of the Commandries of the Order of S. John of Jerusalem. It was the focus of an influence sensibly and deeply and widely felt. A few crumbling fragments, now recognized with difficulty, once formed the boundary between it and the surrounding world. And the green undulations which attracted our traveller's notice were long centuries ago

the demesne Ponds that supplied with their habitual and constant diet the successive Brethren and Sisters of the House.

It is to this very interesting Community that I am about to direct the attention of my reader. And in presenting him with a history of Buckland Priory, I may remind him that I am introducing him to an entirely new and different aspect of Monastic Life and Conventual Usage from those with which I have in previous pages endeavoured to make him familiar. The system of the Hospital itself was unlike all others save one, as I shall presently attempt to show. And, in addition to this, it is specially to be noted that we have here a feature which even in that Order was not elsewhere to be seen in England. Mynchin Buckland was both a Priory and a Preceptory. The latter was a normal example of a Hospitalars' Commandry; the former was the sole instance in the kingdom of its peculiar class. It was a Community of Women, and the only one that the Order possessed. As such, its history presents us not only with a subject of the greatest local interest, but with an unique chapter in monastic annals at large. It is at once a new scene to the student of olden days, and one of which no county but Somersetshire can furnish him with an example.

Before I enter into the vicissitudes of this attractive place, it will be necessary to give my reader a brief outline of the Order to which it belonged. We should otherwise be likely to meet with obscurities in the story which a few words of previous explanation would avail to prevent.

The Order of Knights Hospitalars began and took its name from a Hospital founded at Jerusalem, and its chief objects were the defence of the pilgrims on their road thither, and the care and maintenance of them during their

sojourn. It included among its members both men and women; and, of the duties just enumerated, the latter was necessarily as well as specially the office of the Sisters, as was the former of the Brethren. The Knights, or officers of the highest rank, were called in the first instance Knights of S. John of Jerusalem; and afterwards, from the place of their successive residence, Knights of Rhodes and Knights of Malta. The Hospital was founded in the Holy City about the year 1092, and was dedicated to S. John the Baptist. Eight years afterwards the Order was introduced into England, and the brethren's first house was built for them at Clerkenwell in the year 1100. They soon acquired immense wealth, which was much increased in the earlier part of the fourteenth century by the cession to them of the estates of the suppressed Order of the Knights Templars.

The general history of the Hospitalars does not form a portion of my subject, and is also, I presume, more or less known to the greater part of my readers. It is to the peculiarities of their government that I desire to draw attention.

The most important of these consisted in the fact that their Houses, which were erected upon the majority of their estates, were not independent communities, but the officers were in all cases simply stewards of the Prior of England, who in his turn had to account to the head of the Order. Each of these communities, generally consisting of but few members, of whom the majority were usually laymen, with one or more chaplains for the celebration of Divine Offices, was under the government of a Commander or Preceptor, and was hence styled a Commandry or Preceptory. The brethren were allowed a maintenance from the produce of the estates committed to their super-

intendence, and accounted for the overplus to the Prior at Clerkenwell. Lands, therefore, could only be given to the Order through the Prior, and not to any single Commandry, that being deemed in law incapable of receiving them, as the officers were but "obedientiarii," officials, deputed by the Prior as his representatives and receivers. Their system was, accordingly, entirely different from those of other Orders, that of the Temple excepted. Instead of each being independent, and having the care of its own individual interest, all were so many subject brotherhoods, each acknowledging one general head, and contributing its portion to the general treasury.

This will be sufficient to give the reader a notion of the early history of the Order and its mode of government. We will now proceed to our immediate subject. Let me, however, premise that considerable errors have arisen from the identity of its name with that of numerous other localities possessed of a similar cognomen. This has, unhappily, tended to confuse and falsify, and so to render worse than useless, even the few and very meagre notices of it which have hitherto been committed to the press. There is hardly one of the previous writers who has not mistaken it more or less for the Abbey of Buckland in the County of Devon. One has identified it with Buckland S. Mary in Somersetshire. And, strange to add, even the learned Sir Henry Chauncy, in his History of Hertfordshire, has described an imaginary Buckland Monastery in that county, and has given in connection with it some of the earlier facts in the history of our House. It has not been hitherto, however, nor is it now my desire, to dwell upon other men's omissions or mistakes. A much more agreeable and valuable task is mine, to which I contentedly and gladly turn.

It was about the year 1166, that William de Erlegh, lord of the manor of Durston, founded the House for a small community of Augustine Canons. His father, John de Erlegh, who died in the previous year, was possessed of several manors in the county of Somerset, one of which still bears his name in Somerton Erle, and is mentioned as paying five marcs for scutage in 1161. In behalf of the souls of King Henry and of Alianor the Queen, and of King Henry his son and their other sons and daughters, and for the benefit of the souls of himself and of his wife, this William de Erlegh gave, as Brother John Stillingflete informs us, all the land of Buklande, and the Church of Perretone (Petherton),* with other churches and lands in divers places, as appears by a charter for that purpose made, for the planting and ordaining of Religion at Buckland, by the hand of his kinsman S. Thomas of Canterbury; and that the said Canons thus planted and ordained should possess the aforesaid lands and churches to their proper uses in pure and perpetual alms.†

According to the same chronicler, who wrote an account of the Order in 1434, for a perpetual memorial and commemoration of the various benefactors and their

* "The Brooke is caullid Peder, and risith West Sowth West yn the Hylles about a 2 myles of. First it cummith by North-Pedreton, a praty uplandisch Toun, wher is a fair Chirch, the Personage wherof was impropriate to Mynchinbocland."—Leland, Itin. vol. II., p. 66.

† MS. in Off. Armor. L. 17, fol. 153. MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23. Appendix, No. I.

As will be observed by the references, I am acquainted with two MSS. of this work of Brother John Stillingflete, one preserved in the College of Arms, L. 17., and the other in the Cottonian Library, Tiberius, E. IX. Both are transcripts later by upwards of a century and a half than the lifetime of the chronicler. The former has been much injured by the fire of 1731, and exists but in fragments: the latter is considerably more ample in details, although both of them were evidently copied from a common original, but its text is most corrupt, and the writer was clearly ignorant of the language of the production which he endeavoured to perpetuate.

numerous donations, it appears that together with the Church of Pereton (Petherton), and all its dependent chapels and their appurtenances, the same William de Erlegh gave the Church of Chedsey (Chedzoy), with all the right which the Hospital had or ought to have in the Church of Poulet, with the Chapel of Huntworth, the Chapel of Earl's Neweton, the Chapel of Thurlakeston (although this assuredly was either then or very shortly afterwards appropriated to the Priory of Taunton), the Chapel of Sirdeston, and the Chapel of King's Neweton; also the Church of Bekynton, the Church of Kynmersdon, and the Church of Sirston, with, it is added, other lands and benefactions besides.*

It appears that Walter was the first and possibly the only Prior of the House. The chronicler just quoted is silent on the fact, and indeed the whole account is not a little obscure. But, on turning to other MS. sources for information, I find a Walter Prior of Bokeland, or Bokland, as witness in two documents belonging to this period. One of these sets forth that Alan de Furvell, or Fervell, gave to the Church of S. Andrew of Wells the Church of Cudeworth with the Chapel of Cnolle, to be a perpetual prebend of that Church.† The other is a confirmation by Maude Chandos of a donation of Silvanus to the Church of S. Mary of Stowey, at its dedication, of two acres of land, and of a later donation to the same Church of an acre and a half in Betescumbe; and also of a donation of Roger de Paris to the same Church at the aforesaid dedication of an acre of land in Bueli.‡ Probably, as he is not mentioned in connection with the subsequent troubles, he

* MS. in Off. Armor. L. 17, fol. 153b. Appendix, No. II.

† MS. Harl. 6968, p. 40. Reg. Well., f. 38.

‡ MS. Harl. 6968, Cart. p. 21.

died before the arrival of the evil days which made his House notorious. Indeed, it is not improbable that those troubles were associated with the election of his successor.

A few years after their foundation, these Canons were removed from their monastery. The exact circumstances are nowhere recorded, but it appears that a violent altercation had unhappily arisen which resulted in the death of their steward, who was a relative of the pious founder. A sentence of outlawry was accordingly passed upon them, their House was declared to be forfeited, and their lands and churches were made over by the then sovereign, King Henry the Second,* with the concurrence of Ralph Archbishop of Canterbury, of Reginald Bishop of Bath, and of many of the chief men of England both clerical and lay, to Garner of Naples, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem in England. Among the earliest records of this transfer, for the original deed has not to my knowledge been preserved, is a charter of "inspeximus" granted by K. John, recounting at large the possessions of the Hospitalars, and concluding with the usual forms of confirmation of all previous donations, together with express mention of the arrangement to be noticed immediately. This charter was dated at Rouen, 30th of August, 1st of John, A.D. 1199.†

As I have already hinted, it was not a simple transfer, but a very important stipulation was introduced into the grant, and directed to be fully and faithfully observed. It appears that there were a few Sisters belonging to the Order, who resided at several of the Commandries, as at Hamton near Kyngeston, Kerebrooke, Swynfeld, and other places. It was now ordered and agreed to that these

* MS. in Coll. Arm., L. 17, f. 155. Appendix, No. III.
† Rot. Cart. 1 John, m. 17.

ladies should be removed from their various places of residence and be placed in one common and conventual home at Buckland, and that the Order should have no Sisterhood belonging to it in England save and except in this House alone. This occurred about the year 1180, or sometime about fifteen years after the original foundation.

The displaced Canons were removed by Garner, with the King's consent, to certain monasteries, selected probably for their high character and the sound state of their internal discipline. Three were, on their own petition, consigned to the Hospital at Clerkenwell, and assumed the habit of the Order; two were placed by Reginald Bishop of Bath, also on their own petition, in the Priory of Taunton; one in the Priory of Berlitz, and one in that of S. Bartholomew, in Smithfield. These preliminary arrangements being satisfactorily concluded, the main design was forthwith carried out. The Sisters hitherto residing, as already stated, in several of the preceptories, were brought together and lodged at what was henceforth called Mynchin or Nuns' Buckland. From the names which have been preserved, they appear to have been at least nine in number :—Sister Milisent, previously living at Standon, in Hertfordshire; Sister Johanna, at Hamton, in Middlesex; Sister Basilia, at Kerebrooke, in Norfolk; Sister Amabilia and Sister Amicia, of Malketon, at Shenegey, in Cambridgeshire; Sister Christina, of Hoggeshawe, at Hoggeshawe, in Buckinghamshire; Sister Petronilla, at Gosford, in Oxfordshire; and Sister Agnes, at Clanefelde, also in Oxfordshire. They were located at Buckland, that, as it was solemnly added, they and their successors might serve God in that place for ever.* Such was the small beginning, and such the first members of this afterwards famous Sisterhood.

* MS. in Coll. Arm., L. 17, fol. 153. Appendix, No. IV.

From a very interesting list of some of the immediate successors of Prior Garner, contained in one of the Cottonian MSS., specially intended, as it would appear, to illustrate the history of Buckland, we learn that the first Prioress was named Fina. This lady, who died about the year 1240, governed the House for the long space of sixty years, and outlived from the date of her appointment seven successive Heads of the Order.* She was greatly revered, and, as we shall notice subsequently, was specially remembered in the prayers of the Sisterhood for a considerable period after her decease.

The maintenance of these religious women was provided for by a series of benefactors. First on the list is Matilda Countess of Clare, wife of William Earl of Clare, and mother of Richard Earl of Clare, who gave to the Hospital the advowson of the Church of S. Peter of Kerebrooke, and the Preceptory of that name. She gave also to the Sisters of Buckland a pension of 13s. 4d., to be paid by the Preceptor for the time being, and many other benefactions. The gift is recorded to have been made at Westminster, in the fifth year of King Richard I, 1193, in the time of Alan, Prior of England and subsequently Bishop of Bangor.† That of Kerebrooke, however, at least, must be placed at an earlier date, as we have already seen that the Order was in possession of it in the year 1180.

Gilbert de Veer, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem, gave the Sisters an annual pension of one hundred shillings, issuing from the manor of Reynham.‡ He died 13th August, 1198 (?).

* MS. Cott. Nero, E. VI. f. 457b. Appendix, No. V.

† MS. in Coll. Arm. L. 17. fol. 148 b. Appendix, No. VI.

‡ MS. Cott. Nero. E. IV. f. 467b. Appendix, No. VII.

Hugh Wallis, Bishop of Lincoln, by his will, made in the year 1211, left the sum of twenty marcs "ad fabricam ecclesiæ de Bokland." This structure, it appears, was dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and S. Nicholas.*

Hugh de Alneto, or D'Auney, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem, gave, with the consent of the Chapter, permission to the Lady Loretta, Countess of Leicester, to find a Chaplain to celebrate daily the mass of the Virgin in the Church of the Sisters, in return for certain lands and rents which the Countess gave to the Hospital, to be converted to the proper uses of the Sisters aforesaid of Buckland, so that the aforesaid Chaplain should be deputed to no other service save the proper and peculiar ministry of the Virgin in the Church aforesaid.† We possess the charter of the Countess of Leicester contained in one of "inspeximus" and confirmation granted shortly after by King Henry III., and dated at Westminster, the 16th of July, 1227. As it is of considerable interest, both from its subject matter and from the names of the places with which it furnishes us, some of my readers may be glad to have it in a literal translation. It is as follows :—

"Be it known to all the faithful of Christ, as well present as future, who shall see or hear this writing, that I Loretta, Countess of Leycester, have given and granted to God, and Blessed Mary, and S. John Baptist, and the blessed Poor of the House of the Hospital of Jerusalem, towards the sustenance of the Sisters of Boclaund serving God, and towards the finding of a certain Chaplain in the same House, who daily and for ever may celebrate mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in the greater Church

* Rot. Chart. 1 Joh. m. 17.

† MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX. f. 23. MS. in Coll. Arm. L. 17. f. 153 b. Appendix, No. VIII.

at Bokland, at the altar of the Blessed Virgin, for the health of my soul and of Lord Robert my husband, some time Earl of Leicester, and for the health of the souls of my father and mother, and of all my ancestors and successors, all my land of Noteston, and all my land of Ynesford, this side the water and that side the water, and sixty-four acres of my demesne above Ruwedon, and all my land of Ridescot, and of Hele, and of Chorlecot, and of Tunecote, and of Boteburn, and all the land which Philip at Way holds, with the tenants of the aforesaid lands. Moreover, a hundred acres of my demesne in Bremesmore, and my wood which is called Anerwd, and one ferling at Roitheye, with all their appurtenances in the manor of Toustoke, with pasturage and all other things appertaining to the aforesaid lands. Moreover, all kinds of common between my tenements wheresoever. To be holden and possessed freely and quietly in perpetual and pure alms, as any alms may be freely and quietly given. And that this my gift may in future times obtain the strength of perpetual firmness, I have held it right to strengthen it by the defence of the present writing with the apposition of my seal. Witnesses, Master Lambert, Sub-dean of Wells; Lord Philip de Alben; Lord Roger de la Zuche; Adam, son of Hondebrand; Master Humphrey, Canon of Cycester; Master Reginald de Merestone; William, Chaplain of Bukingeham; Walter, clerk of Langeham; Thomas, clerk of Glouecester; Nicholas de Wyleye, and others." *

Other early gifts, of which the exact dates have not been preserved, are the following :—

Ralph, the son of William de Briwere, gave to the Sisters the Church of Tolland with its appurtenances.

* Cart. 11 Hen. III., p. 2, m. 9. Appendix, No. IX.

Alan, son of Antony Russell, gave them the Church of Donington, in the diocese of Lincoln.

Warin de Aula gave them Bodescombe.

Ascuid Musard gave them Chiltcombe, Wysangre, and Bochelcote.

And Robert Arundale gave them Halse, with its appurtenances.* Probably this gift is the same as that subsequently mentioned, as having been made so late as the year 1374, and as the subject of legal investigation in the year 1400. The name, however, of the donor is there given as Roger Arundell.

Muriel de Bohun gave them 40 solidatæ of land in Sherborn and Prumesley, in the county of Dorset, which grant was confirmed by her husband, Ralph de Bruere.†

The Prioress of Buckland held also one fee in Primesleigh, which was Robert de London's, of the Bishop of Salisbury; and, with William Waddam, half a fee, which was Robert de London's, of the same Bishop in chief.‡

By a charter dated at Henbiry, the 3rd of August, 1228, King Henry III. granted the Sisters permission to take from his park of Neuton a cartload of dead wood for fuel every week in the year. And it was considerately added, that, because it was more convenient to remove the aforesaid firewood in summer than in winter, the king permitted them to take the stated number of cartloads in the interval from Easter to the feast of S. Peter ad vincula, the 1st of August. An order was given to Richard de Wrotham, to allow them to remove the fuel, in agreement with the terms of the king's grant.‖

* MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX. f. 23. MS. in Off. Armor. L. 17. f. 153 b. Appendix, No. X.

† *Hutchins's Dorsetshire*, II., p. 394. ‡ *Ib.*

‖ Pat. 12 Henry III., m. 2. Appendix, No. XI.

It would appear that this privilege was not only one of considerable value, as it would necessarily be, but also one which was subject to frequent invasion, for we find a long series of confirmations of this and similar grants. In some instances it was possibly the change of the officer to whom the park was intrusted, which necessitated the preparation of a new instrument. On the 3rd of April, 1229, the king signified from Marlborough to Hugh de Nevill his royal pleasure that the Sisters should have weekly from his park of Neuton one cartload of the dead wood of that park for their fuel. A similar permission was added to remove the whole of their yearly gathering between the feast of Easter and that of S. Peter ad vincula, instead of employing the winter in so inconvenient a work.* A similar order was given to Richard de Wrotham, dated at Westminster, 15th of May, 1229.†

Immediately subsequent to this grant, a very interesting addition was made to the revenues of the Sisters, and again it was by their royal benefactor. The letters were addressed to the King's treasurer and chamberlains. "Know ye," he says, "that we have given, and granted, and by our charter have confirmed to the Prioress of Bocland and the Sisters there serving God, of the Order of the Hospital of Jerusalem, to maintain three maidens for ever in the said priory, a delivery of two pence and one half-penny, which Roger, Chaplain of the Bishop of Lincoln, used to receive daily by the hand of the Sheriff of Hereford our almoner; and a delivery of two pence, which Margary, the nurse of Isabella our sister, used to receive daily by the hand of the same. To be held of us and of our heirs by them and their successors in free, pure, and perpetual alms; and to

* Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 12.
† Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 10.

be received for ever at our exchequer; that is to say, one half at Michaelmas, and the other at Easter. And so we command you that ye have these deliveries made unto them, as aforesaid. At Faversham, the 20th of September, 1229."*

This was followed eight days afterwards by a grant, addressed to Richard de Wrotham, in favour of the Sisters, increasing the gift of one to that of three weekly cartloads of wood for their fire. It was to be taken every week "de spinis, alno, et arabili," in the park of Neuton, and a similar concession was added as to time with that previously stated. The grant was dated at Westminster, 28th September, 1229.† A similar one was addressed two days afterwards to John de Monem, from London, the 30th of September, 1229.‡

Terric de Nussa, Prior of England, who died on the 21st December, 1237, gave the Sisters and their successors, by advice of the general Chapter of his brethren, an annual allowance of thirty-eight marcs, twelve shillings, and eight pence sterling, which they were to receive from the Preceptor of Buckland for the time being, at two terms of the year; namely, at the feast of Easter, nineteen marcs, six shillings and four pence, and a similar sum at the feast of S. Michael. And it was further ordered that the Preceptor or Master should be allowed this amount in his responsions or annual returns to the Receiver General of the Order.‖

Previous to the 15th of February, 1270-1, which was the day of his decease, Roger de Veer, Prior of England, paid a

* Pat. 13 Hen. III., m. 4.
† Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 4.
‡ Claus. 13 Hen. III., m. 3.
‖ MS. in Coll. Arm., L. 17, f. 153. Appendix, No. XII.

visit to Bukland to inspect the state of the House. He found great difference and discord prevailing between the Preceptor and the Prioress and Convent, about a number of matters intimately affecting the Prioress and her Sisters. There is little doubt, as in an instance which will be before us presently, that the Preceptor looked with a grudging eye on the possessions of the Sisterhood, and hardly endured to part with the funds which he was compelled to advance for their maintenance. Roger appears to have felt that nothing but peremptory measures would ensure peace. With the assent of his chapter at Melcheburn, he made among other regulations the following :—That the Prioress and Convent should have their own steward, who should sit at the table of the Preceptor; and one servant, who should sit with the servants of the Preceptor; and who should be there daily at table unless the steward should otherwise appoint him. That at the feast of S. Michael, when the steward should desire to hold his court at Hele, he should have of the cellarer five white loaves and his flagons full of ale; and that at the same feast, when he should hold his courts at Kinmersdon and Primmilegh, he should have the same; and at Hokeday the same; and that he should have his horse furniture and all other necessaries, at the delivery and appointment of the Prioress and Convent. And that, if in anything he should be at fault, it should be lawful for the Prioress to prohibit him from meddling with their goods, but not to remove him from his office without the consent of the Prior. Moreover, it was ordained that the Sisters should have a secular priest to celebrate mass for the soul of Sister Fina sometime Prioress there, and for the souls of the founders and benefactors of the said House, who should sit at table with the brethren, and have his bed in the dormitory between the

priests and clerks, and for the rest of his time should be at the order of the Prioress; so that the Preceptor should have an allowance of five marcs for the table of the said priest, and also of the one brother who celebrated the mass of Blessed Mary, and also three shillings at the feast of S. Michael for the clerk of the chapel.* The calm which this arrangement produced was at best but temporary, and we shall soon have to notice some evidences of the feeling with which it was regarded by the Preceptor and his brethren, by whom the establishment of the neighbouring Community was clearly considered a grievance of no common order!

In or about the year 1270, the Hospitallers of Boclande were returned among other Somersetshire landowners as holding five virgates of land, of the annual value of fifty shillings.†

In 1276, the Sisters are stated on the verdict of a jury to have common of pasture for eight oxen and two cows in a place of forty acres situated in Rolneston.‡

Shortly after this date the chapel of Kynmeresdon was sacrilegiously broken into and plundered. The crime was charged upon a certain Robert de Bo——, (the MS. is imperfect and the name cannot be regained) before the Justices Itinerant, but he was happy enough to clear himself to the satisfaction of his judges A letter is extant from Robert Bishop of Bath to the King, "excellentissimo domino suo domino Edwardo," wishing him health "in Eo per Quem reges regnant et regnorum omnium gubernacula sustentantur," and soliciting the prompt restoration of the possessions and goods of the accused, which had been

* MS. in Off. Arm. L. 17, f. 153 b. Appendix, No. XIII.

† Test. de Nevill, f. 759.

‡ Hilar. an. 4 Edw. I. de Jur. et Ass. rot. 14. Abbrev. Plac. p. 189.

detained during the process of the investigation. The Bishop's letter is dated at Windsor, 9th September, 1281.*

In 1290 was the famous Taxatio of Pope Nicholas IV. The Church of Boclonde was then valued at £5 6s. 8d; Perton, with its Chapel, at £53 6s. 8d.; the Vicarage of the same at £6 13s. 4d.; and Elleworth, at £4 6s. 8d.†

The favour of collecting fire wood from the park of Neuton, Perton, or Petherton, appears, as I have remarked, to have been often contested. In the year 1290, the nuns were obliged to petition the king in parliament with a view to the restoration of their rights. They submitted that since the battle of Evesham, A.D. 1265, they had been hindered in their ancient privilege, and humbly solicited the king's favour in the restitution of the same.‡

Richard de Plessetis, or de Placey, a descendant of Richard de Wrotham already noticed, who died 20 Edw. I., 1292, founded, about two years before his decease, a perpetual chantry at Newton for the health of his soul and the souls of his father and mother, and all his ancestors and successors. For the endowment of the same, he granted to William de Hilprinton, the intended chantry priest, and his successors, in the chapel of S. Peter at Newton, a house in which William de Grey, a former chaplain, lived aforetime, and several acres of land in Ivymore, Highmore, and Ellerhaye, together with the tithes of Newton and Petherton Park, and right of common for six oxen and six heifers in all places where he had common. The witnesses to this charter were the Preceptor of Buckland, Sir Geoffrey de Wrockshall, Sir John de Placetis, Peter de Hamme, and John de Marisco.‖

* Calendar of Letters, No. 1948.
† Tax. Eccl. P. Nich. IV., pp. 198, 199.
‡ Pet. in Parl., 18 Edw. I., n. 152, vol. I., 58.
‖ Collins. e Regist. Well. III. 65.

In 1297, the 25th of Edward I., the Master of the Hospital of Bocland was returned from the counties of Somerset and Dorset, as holding lands or rents to the amount of £20 yearly value or upwards, either *in capite* or otherwise, and as such he was summoned under the general writ to perform military service, &c., in parts beyond the sea. The muster was at London, on the Sunday next after the Octave of S. John the Baptist, or the 7th of July, 1297.*

In the Perambulation of the Forest of North Petherton, dated the 25th of May, 26 Edward I., 1298, it is set forth that John de Erlegh holds the manor of North Petherton, with the moors, &c., and that the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem holds the hamlet of Gogestode, the Priory of Bokeland, the hamlets of Taklestone and Heggynge, with the woods, moors, marshes, &c., and the hamlet of Bidone, with the moors, marshes, &c.†

King Edward I. gave the Order a charter for a weekly market, held on Monday, in his manor of Halse.‡

The year 1306 brought a further increase of property. A writ was addressed on the 16th of October, 1305, and an inquest was held at Somerton, before J. de Montacute, the King's Escheator, on the Monday after Palm Sunday in the following year, or the 28th of March, 1306, to examine and report whether it were to the detriment of the King, or of any others, if Thomas de Berkelay should give two shops, with their appurtenances, in Welles, to the Prioress and Sisters of Boclande. The process was exactly similar to that which I have fully explained in my History of Taunton Priory, and does not require further illustration.

* Parl. Writs, I., 293.

† Per. For. de North Petherton, 26 Edward I.

‡ Cart. 18 Edw. I., n. 80. MS. Coll. Arm., L. 17. f. 156. Appendix, No. XIV.

The verdict was favourable, and the King's letters patent, dated at Lanercost, the 20th of October, enabled both parties to act in agreement with the donor's desire.* The annual value of the property was eighteen shillings in all issues.

William de Tottehale, Prior of England, presented John de Messingham to North Pederton, 12th March, 1309-10.†

The year subsequent to this date, the same Thomas de Berkelee granted under very peculiar circumstances four pounds of rent, with appurtenances, issuing from lands and tenements in Hamme, held by Thomas de Stane of the the said Thomas. This sum was to be received by the Prioress and Sisters in aid of the maintenance of his daughter Isabella, who was a Sister of the House. They were to receive it during the life of this lady; and after her decease it was to revert entirely to its former master. The letters patent describe the Priory as very poor, "quod nimis exile esse dinoscitur," and convey the King's license for this seasonable help. They are dated at London, the 25th of August, 1311.‡

The Master of the Hospital was certified, pursuant to writ tested at Clipston, 5th March, 1316, as one of the lords of the township of North Petherton.‖

In the Ordination of the Vicarage of Poulet, made in the following year, the Vicar was to pay every year one marc of silver to the Sisters of Bokland.§

On the 9th of March, 1320, John de Werewell was Preceptor, and was appointed by the Prior of S. John to

* Inquis. ad. 9, d. 34 Edw. I., n. 178. Pat. 34 Edw. I., m. 4.
† MS. Harl. 6985 B, f. 126 b.
‡ Pat. 5 Edw. II., p. 1, m. 20.
‖ Parl. Writs, II., 378.
§ MS. Harl. 6968, Cart. p. 7.

be procurator and administrator of the estates belonging to the Hospital in the diocese of Bath and Wells.*

In the year 1328, an amicable arrangement was after some delay arrived at between Geoffrey Samuel and William his son on the one part, and the Prioress Isabella la Louwe and Convent on the other, touching the celebration of Divine Service in their chapel of Lokyngton, in their parish of Kilmersdon. It was agreed that the Prioress and Convent, for themselves and their successors, should grant to the aforesaid Geoffrey and William, the celebration in the aforesaid chapel, on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, to be performed by the perpetual Vicar of Kilmersdon, in return for a tenement which the Prioress and Convent held of the fee of the aforesaid Geoffrey and William. To the constant maintenance of this celebration, Geoffrey and William bound themselves and their heirs in one quarter of corn, to be paid every year to the said Vicar from their manor of Lokyngton. The confirmation was dated the 19th of November, 1328.†

On the 28th of August in the following year, 1329, died Thomas L'Archier, Prior of England. He gave to the Sisters of Buckland a yearly pension of forty shillings, to be drawn for ever from the manor of Hidon, a limb of Templecomb.‡

During the same year, the Preceptor and Sisters were obliged to call in the aid of their ecclesiastical superiors against the harsh measures of Master Richard de Thistelden, their diocesan's official. The latter had called upon them to exhibit their title to the churches of Northpederton, Durston, Halse, Bromfeld, and Kynemersden, in the

* Archer, e Reg. Drok. 159.
† MS. Harl, 6964, p. 132.
‡ MS. Cott. E. VI. f. 467b. Appendix, No. XV.

diocese of Bath and Wells. These churches were, as we have already noticed, canonically appropriated to them, and had been so from ancient times. On their citation to pay the customary "obedience" in behalf of these churches, considerable harshness was exhibited; and, on their duly demanding to be furnished with a copy of his commission, the commissary had not only neither listened to their prayer nor acceded to their request, but had pronounced them contumacious, when they were not so, had fined them in an immoderate sum of money, and had ordered the same to be levied forthwith. An appeal was forwarded to the Apostolic See, which was promptly followed by an inhibition against his attempting aught to the prejudice of the appellants during the pending of the suit in the Court of Canterbury. The inhibition was dated at London, the 26th of September, 1329.*

It appears, from the Year Book of 1330, that the arrangement just mentioned in connexion with the chapel of Lokyngton, or Leeke, was not fully and faithfully observed. The record referred to presents us, accordingly, with an instance of litigation, the issue of which, so far as we can gather it, was of an unfavourable character. The proceedings, as there given, are in avowry, and the question is raised as to the lawfulness of a certain distress levied by Agnes, widow of William Samuel, upon Isabel de Berch, Prioress of Buckeland, through the alleged non-performance of the terms of the covenant. Agnes, by a plaint sued by the Prioress, is made defendant, and called upon to give reasons for levying the distress. To those of my readers who feel an interest in the old practice of the law, it will not be unwelcome if I enter into the particulars

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 17. Appendix, No. XVI.

of the case, and exhibit the process by which an attempt was made to obtain restitution. It is stated that "Agnes Samuel avoweth a distress upon Isabel de Berch, Prioress of Buckland, by reason that one M., a predecessor of the said Isabel, held of Richard Flory a message and acre of land by fealty and the service of finding a chaplain to sing, in the chapel within his manor of Leeke, masses, matins, and vespers, on three days in the week throughout the whole year, to wit Sunday, Wednesday, and Friday, and to find in the same chapel bread, and wine, and other things suitable for the celebration of Divine Service, "pan', et vine, et auters ornam'ts pur divines servic' celebrer," of which services Richard was seised; the which Richard gave and granted the manor, with the chapel to which the services related, to William the late husband of the same Agnes, and to Agnes, and to the heirs of their two bodies; the which M. made attornment of the said services to William and Agnes; and after the death of William this same Agnes was seised, by the hand of the said Isabel, &c., and for the singing in arrear for two years.*

The defence that seems by the pleadings to have been set up to Agnes Samuel's case was that the Vicar by a certain composition received a quarter of wheat for the fulfilment of the duties, which were performed by a priest employed by him. And the question was whether the facts alleged by the Prioress were sufficient answer to bar Agnes Samuel of her action, or whether on the other hand she were justified in levying the distress. We do not know the issue, as, the Court sitting in Banco and not at Nisi prius, no decision was come to on the

* Mich. 4 Edw. III., pl. 52.

merits; though I think, as I have already said, that it may be gathered from the pleadings that Prioress would be unsuccessful, and that the distress which Agnes Samuel had levied would be pronounced valid and according to law.

Of the year 1335 I am happy to furnish a very valuable memorial. It is the certificate of the Lord Bishop to the King, of the churches, advowsons, and pensions which the Prior and Brethren of the Hospital possessed in the diocese of Bath and Wells. They are here stated to hold, as appropriate rectories, the Church of Halse, of the annual value of £10; the Church of Durston, with the tithes of Coggelode by Boclande, (there is still a "Coglett Field" in the immediate neighbourhood of the site of the Priory) of the annual value of 8 marcs; the Church of Northpederton, of the annual value of 60 marcs; and the Church of Kynemersdone, of the annual value of 24 marcs. They have also, it is added, the advowsons of the Churches of Ellesworthe, taxed in 6 marcs and a half; of Talande, taxed in 3 marcs; and of Hethfeld, taxed in 5 marcs. They have also the following annual pensions: from the Chapel of Bodyngton in the park of Netherstauway, 2s.; from the Church of Touland, 2s.; from Bekyngton, 20s.; and from the Church of Poulet, 1 marc. The document is dated at Banwell, 27th August, 1335.*

In the 11th year of King Edward III., 1337, died John de Erlegh, seised at the time of his decease of the manors of Durston, North Petherton, Somerton Erle, Bekington, Michaelchurch, &c. The fact of special interest in our present enquiry is that he left behind him a son John, born

* MS. Harl. 6965, p. 93.

and baptised at Durston, 29th of November, 6 Edward III., 1332, who afterwards attended the Black Prince to Spain; another son Richard; and three daughters, Katharine Prioress of Buckland, Elizabeth wife of Sir John Stafford, and Alice wife of Sir Nicholas Poines.* Here we have an instance, by no means uncommon, of a noble daughter of the house of a founder governing the Community which owed its origin to the piety of an ancestor long gone to his reward.

For the year subsequent to this date we possess an invaluable series of returns, which furnish us with a most lively picture of the system of the Hospital in full operation and activity. It will be remembered that, in the sketch which I gave of the Order, I showed that all the provincial Heads and Preceptors were simply delegates of the Prior of England, and had to account to him for the surplus of their receipts over their expenditure. The Hospital in England was only a portion of that widely-spread institution which had possessions in at least two-thirds of the then known world. An annual return was accordingly made from each of the Preceptories or Commandries by the Preceptor or receiver to the Prior of England, and by him to the head-quarters of the Order, wherever those might happen to be. Happily for us, we possess one of these interesting balance-sheets, that for the year 1338, which was fortunately discovered at Malta, and published three years ago by the Camden Society, with an admirable preface by my lamented friend, Mr. John Mitchell Kemble. This truly valuable contribution to historical and archæological science would, in my humble opinion, be perfect, but for the grave mistake, for which my friend was not responsible, of printing the

* Inq. p. m. 28 Edw. III., n. 71.

MS. *in extenso*, the result of which is that certain errors run through the whole volume, a result but poorly compensated for by the imagined—and only imagined—greater facility with which the accounts may be perused. To well-instructed antiquaries it is as easy to read manuscripts with their contractions as *in extenso*, while to general readers the matter presented in either form is equally obscure and unintelligible.

The return itself consists of a minutely-accurate balance-sheet for every part of the property of the Order in England, with an exact account of income and of outlay in every *bajulia*, bailiwick or manor. Buckland figures prominently among these ; and I will endeavour, by means of the data here presented to us, to give my reader a picture of the scene on which we are now engaged, as it appeared during the former half of the fourteenth century.

The establishment consisted of various buildings, of which three are mentioned, which either required some outlay, or furnished a source of income. First, there was the court or manor-house, but it sadly needed a new roof. The bakehouse attached to it also wanted repair, and is described as in a very ruinous condition. A dovecot, which, singularly enough, appears to have been an appendage to almost every House, and a never-failing source of emolument, is returned as yielding, together with the produce and herbage of the garden, the considerable annual value of 10s. The proceeds of both were no doubt disposed of in the neighbourhood, when the supply exceeded the need at home. As that supply would necessarily vary with different years, it is not unlikely, especially as we constantly find this item set down in round numbers throughout the various accounts, that it was computed at a certain annual value, which in some years was exceeded

by the actual return, while in others it was deficient. Attached to the Community was a demesne of 268 acres of arable land, of which 200 were valued at 12d. an acre; and the remaining 68 at 7d. an acre, amounting together to £12 16s. There were also 42 acres of meadow, whereof three were taken by the Sisters. Of the remaining 39 the value of each was 2s., and of the whole 78s. There was also a small church, "una parva ecclesia," appropriated to the Priory, of the annual value of 40s. Two mills were an additional source of income, which, with assessed rent, paid by free tenants to their landlord, amounted to £10. The fines and perquisites of the manor courts were valued at 20s. The *confraria*, or voluntary contribution from the neighbourhood, whether constant or exceptional is uncertain, hardly produced this year the sum of 80 marcs.

Halse is returned as a "member" of this bailiwick. It also had a manor house, but in a state of still greater dilapidation than that of Buckland. "Destructa" it was, "et multum vastata;" so much so that the proceeds of the manor for a whole year would scarce be sufficient to repair the damage. 220 acres were attached to it, 200 of which were valued at 12d., and 20 at 10d. an acre, together £10 16s. 8d. There were 28 acres of pasture, valued at 8d. an acre; 18 acres and a half of meadow, valued at 2s. an acre; 52 acres of pasture, valued at 4d. an acre; assessed rent £20 3s. per annum; fines and perquisites of the manor courts, 40s.; works and customary services of the native villani, commuted, I presume, into a money-rent, 40s.; the appropriated rectory, valued at 18 marcs; and pasture in moor and wood, at 6s. 8d.

The total amount of receipt and profit from the entire manor, with its member, was 186 marcs, 10s. 4d.

We will now turn to the other side of the account, and

here we shall have an interesting and necessarily faithful picture of the social life of the House.

The Society consisted, in the first place, of the Preceptor and five Brethren, after whom were their servants of various kinds, and the stranger guests, whom their rule of hospitality obliged them to entertain. The cost of 94 quarters of wheat, which were made into bread for the House, at 3s. a quarter, amounted to £14 2s. For their beer, 130 quarters of grain, of which 52 were of barley, at 2s. a quarter, and 78 of oat malt, at 20d. a quarter, both amounting to £11 14s. Then there were the expenses of the kitchen, an outlay of 4s. a-week, or £10 8s. a year. The robes, mantles, and other necessaries of the Preceptor and his five Brethren, are stated at £10 8s., allowing £1 14s. 8d. to each, which, as it appears throughout the returns, was the stated and ordinary sum. The stipend of a chaplain, per annum, with a seat at the Preceptor's table, 20s. John le Port, a corrodary, or fellow-commoner, by deed of the chapter, had a seat at the table, valued at 18s. In the robes of the Preceptor's servants was expended 1 marc. In the stipends of four clerks of the confraria, with commons, £4. In the wages of various servants, the cook, baker, steward, porter, woodreeve, chapel-clerk, gardener, swineherd, and carter, 51s. 8d., of whom four received 2 marcs, and each of the rest 5s. The stipends of four pages amounted to 8s. They spent during the year, in repairs and roofing of their buildings, 40s. The visitation of the Prior of England, whose duty it was to make in person his annual examination, cost during the six days of his presence the heavy sum of £6. Lastly there was the annual pension to the Sisters, which we have already noticed, amounting to the charge of 29 marcs. The sum total of all the expenses and payments is 125 marcs, 3s. And the surplus, to be

paid to the general treasury of the Order, figures at 61 marcs, 7s. 4d.

The Preceptor and his brethren who at this time represented the Hospital at Buckland were Brother John Diluwe, Preceptor, chaplain; Brother Robert Mountfort, chaplain; Brother Adam de Catworth, chaplain; Brother Thomas de Taimeworth, chaplain; Brother Andrew de Shafteworth, sergeant-at-arms; and Brother Henry de Whaddon, sergeant-at-arms and steward of the Sisters. To these we must add John le Port, the corrodary, to whom we have already referred.

The return concludes with an account of the Sisterhood. It describes their House as having been founded by the kings of England, and themselves as wearing the habit of the Hospital, and as commonly amounting to fifty in number. It further states that, by the ordination of their founders, their possessions were managed by themselves. Intent on making a correct report, and with a scarcely disguised feeling of resentment against everything which could tend to diminish the surplus by which his activity and good management could best be exhibited, the Preceptor most ungallantly adds that he and his brethren neither did nor could have or get aught from these ladies, "sed potius onus et gravamen," but rather burden, charge, and grievance—inasmuch as by a fixed ordination they were to have a brother of the Priory of England, at the expense of the Prior and Preceptor of the place, to be their steward, and two brethren for chaplains, and one secular chaplain to serve their church—also, it is not omitted to add, at the expense of the Preceptor. In the same place they had three carucates of land, of the annual value, in common years, of £6. Besides this, they are described as being in possession of other property, with some of which we are already

acquainted:—at Thele, in Devonshire, one carucate of land, of the value of 40s.; at Prunslee, one carucate, valued at 40s.; at Kynemersdon, one carucate, valued at 50s. Of assessed rent, they are stated to own 90 marcs, but it is added that hardly so many as 80 are levied. The following churches also are mentioned as appropriated to them:—The church of Pederton, of the value of 50 marcs; the church of Kynemersdon, of the value of 20 marcs; and that of Bromfeld, valued at £10. All of which, is the conclusion forcibly impressed upon the treasurer, are insufficient to provide for the maintenance of the Sisters and that of their servants, together with the repairs of their buildings, their dress, and other necessaries, apart from the help of friends and elemosynary payments.* It is indeed clear that a Community of fifty nuns, with their servants, although they did not afterwards, or perhaps often, amount to half so many, would be very inadequately maintained out of the funds thus described as being at their disposal, and that they would require the assistance of powerful patrons to enable them to support a bare existence.

From Hidon, a limb of Temple Combe, the same record informs us that they had 3 marcs per annum for a tenement of theirs there.† This, as we have already noticed, was given them by Prior Thomas L'Archer, who died in 1329.

I may here place on record that William Redmor was presented to the Church of Hethfeld by Philip de Thame, Prior of England, on the 4th of February, 1348.‡ It would appear that he did not long retain his benefice; for John de Donne, Rector of the Church of Hethfeld,

* Hosp. in Engl. pp. 17—20.
† Hosp., p. 205.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965, p. 201.

presented Robert atte Crosse, Priest, to the Church of Fydyngton on the 25th of June, 1354. The institution is dated at Wylescomb, the 17th of the following month.*

The pension of 20s. due from the Church of Bekyngton had to be recovered by law in 1353. A writ was addressed for this purpose to John de Werdyr, the parson, on the 12th of July in that year.†

In connexion with Buckland, it will not be amiss to repeat that Roger Arundell, sometime lord of the manor of Halse, gave that manor, in the year 1374, to the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England, on condition that he and his successors should find and maintain a chapel at Halse, and a chaplain to celebrate Divine Service for ever in the same for the souls of Roger, his predecessors, and all the faithful departed. A jury found the facts aforesaid, and that the manor, which was held of the king in capite, as of his manor of Hampstede Mareschall, by military service, was of the annual value in all issues of £20. The same jury found that Roger Torell had given to the Rector of the Church of Mulverton 20 acres of arable land, called Mynsterlond in Mulverton, to find a chaplain who should celebrate Divine Service three days every week in the chapel of Torelles Preston. The land was held of the king in capite, by military service, and was worth in all issues 16s. per annum. The Jurors were Bartholomew Baghey, Adam Londe, Robert Ladell, Walter Cherl, Richard Hokeday, John Holm, Benedict Flamesy, Robert Hewere, John Garland, Thomas Clyve, Gilbert Stenes, and Robert Skilgate; and the inquest was taken at Taunton, before Adam atte More, the king's eschaetor, on Wednesday, the 8th of March, 1374. A writ of

* Hyll Cartulary, pp. 52, 53.
† MS. Harl. 6965, p. 257.

"certiorari" in respect of these gifts was issued on the 3rd of July, 1400.*

We must now pass to the year 1387. At this time the Prioress and Sisters obtained from King Richard II., by a fine of thirteen shillings and four pence, another charter of "inspeximus" and confirmation of their ancient grant from Henry III., of fuel from the park of Perton. The letters patent were dated at Westminster, 25th June, 1387.†

At an Inquisition taken at Yvelchester, 7th October, 1398, Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, who died on the previous feast of S. Margaret, July 20, is stated to have been seised at the time of his death of two fees payable by the Prior of S. John, as of the honor of Wiggemor. This is stated in immediate connexion with various other properties of the said Roger at Mershewood, Bocland, and Chilton.‡

On the 28th of April, 1405, another charter of "inspeximus" and ratification was granted to the Prioress and Sisters, on the payment of one marc, in behalf of their ancient privilege. The letters patent on this occasion are particularly valuable, inasmuch as they furnish us with the name of the Prioress of the House, and thus make a still further addition to our list of hitherto unnoted Superiors. The lady in question was named Alicia, but of what family and from whom descended all human record has disappeared. The document is dated at Westminster, on the day and year above mentioned.‖

Three years subsequently, on the 14th of November, 1408, a writ of privy seal was issued, which furnishes us

* Inq. ad q.d. 1 Hen. IV., n. 22.
† Pat. 11 Ric. II., p. 1, m. 36.
‡ Inq. p.m. 22 Ric. II., n. 34.
‖ Pat. 6 Hen. IV., p. 2, m. 28.

with a considerable amount of information as to the legal position of the Sisters. It is clear, from the very terms of their constitution, that they were necessarily subject to the Prior at Clerkenwell in no inconsiderable degree. Bracton, indeed, specially cites them as instances of legal inability of acting apart from the Prior and Head of their Order.* It appears that the Sisters had represented to the king the ancient grant which had been, as we have seen, conceded to them so early as the reign of Henry III., and the further permission accorded of removing their fire-wood, for greater convenience, between the Festival of Easter and that of S. Peter ad vincula. It is added, though hardly as it would seem borne out by the facts, that these concessions had been enjoyed by them from that time to the present without let or hindrance either from the king or the custodians of the park. The present keeper, however, had resisted their demand on the ground that they were but officials, "obedienciarie" of the Prior of S. John, and therefore not competent to accept the grant in their own persons. The Prioress and her Sisters, accordingly, petitioned the king to interfere in their behalf and to provide a remedy. This result it is the intention of the writ to effect. The king, taking it into his royal consideration that the Prioress and Sisters would instantly and devoutly pray for the health of himself and his dearest consort Johanna during their lives, and for their souls after their deaths, and for the king's dearest consort Maria, deceased, granted their request, by conveying to Walter Grendon, Prior of S. John, the gift already conceded, so that the same might be to the use and profit of the Prioress and Sisters at Buckland. Various ambiguities also in the

* De legibus, lib. v. tr. v. c. 18, de exceptionibus.

original charter were now removed, and the intention of the royal donor made more conspicuous. Perton is changed to Pederton. In the previous instruments they were to take their firewood "de spinis, alno, et arabili:" the grant now ran "videlicet thorn, aller, mapel, et hasell." It was also set forth that each cartload should consist of as much firewood as six horses could draw, and that the servants should fall, cut up and carry away at their will the amount granted to them every year, from the Festival of the Annunciation to the Festival of All Saints, without disturbance, hindrance, or grievance from the king, his heirs, the keeper of the park, or any other official or servant whomsoever.*

King Henry V. confirmed this grant of his father to William Hilles, Prior of S. John, in behalf of the Prioress and Sisters, on the payment of half a marc, at Westminster, on the 8th of February, 1418-9.†

Of this also a confirmation was granted by King Henry VI., at Westminster, on the 5th of February, 1422-3.‡ And another ratification and confirmation of the same, on the payment of half a marc, was made to Robert Botell, Prior of S. John, twenty-one years afterwards, on the 10th of February, 1443-4.‖

The Sisters appear to have struggled against poverty without much aid from those who should seem to have been their natural patrons, but from whom it is clear that they received little sympathy. On the 22nd of April, 1447, they sold their pension of 4 marcs, payable to them

* Pat. 10 Hen. IV., p. 1, m. 19. MS. in Coll. Armor. L. 17, f. 156b. Appendix, No. XVII.

† Pat. 6 Hen. V., m. 10.

‡ Pat. 1 Hen. VI., p. 5, m. 5.

‖ Pat. 22 Hen. VI., p. 2, m. 22.

from the vicarage of North Pederton.* These, it is said by Dr. Archer, are still paid to the Crown.

It would appear, although we know very little either of the process or the results, that several valuations of the property were made during the last half of the fifteenth century, especially in 1460 and 1493. We shall presently have before us, however, a most valuable and complete document of a similar kind, and of so near a period to that of the returns alluded to as to make their absence a matter of less importance.†

For some few years nothing seems to have transpired of which a record is preserved for us; but I have found some documents which belong to the commencement of the following century, which give us an excellent insight into the condition of the House at that period.

I may premise, however, to keep to the chronological order as far as possible, that, at a Chapter holden at Melchborne on the 9th of November, 1500, there was granted to Alexander Verney, Chaplain, a chamber suitable to his rank in the manor of Bodmescomb in the county of Devon, with fuel for the said chamber from the underwood of that manor, eight marcs sterling a year by way of stipend, and for food and raiment, during his life, to be received through the hands of the Preceptor of Buckland, or of the farmer in charge. The said Alexander obliged himself to celebrate Divine Service in the Chapel of Bodmescomb as long as his strength lasted so to do. If, from old age or infirmity, he became unable to officiate, his chamber and allowances were still to be continued to him. If, however, whilst able to celebrate, he failed in his duty, and without

* MS. Harl. 6966, p. 61.

† Comput. 38 Hen. VI. Off. Aug. 13092. Comput. 8 Hen. VII. Off. Aug. 1232. Add. MS. 21, 324, pp. 12b, 28b.

licence from the Prior or farmer omitted to perform it, the present grant was to be reckoned null and void. The seals of both parties were affixed to this agreement, which was dated as above.*

In an "Assembly" holden in the house of S. John of Jerusalem, at Clerkenwell, on the 20th of January, 1500-1, at which were present Brother John Kendal, Prior of England; Brother Henry Hawlay, Preceptor of Willughton; Brother Robert Pek, Preceptor of Badislay and Mayne; Brother Robert Dawson, Preceptor of Halston and Templecomb; Brother Thomas Newport, Preceptor of Newland; Brother Robert Danyel, Preceptor of Swynfeld; Brother Adam Chetwod, Preceptor of Badisford and Dynglay; Brother John Tonge, Preceptor of Ribston, Mount S. John, and Carbrok; Brother Jo. Bowth, Preceptor of Quenyngton; and Brother William Darel, Preceptor of Yeuelay and Barowe; a lease was granted to John Vernay of Farefelde, in the county of Somerset, esquire, of the Preceptory of Buclande Priors, in the county of Somerset, with the manors of Bodmescomb and Cove, in the county of Devon, appertaining to the said Preceptory, and all and singular other demesnes, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, rents, services, contributions, courts with their profits, tithes, oblations, goods and chattels of felons and vagabonds, and all other liberties, emoluments, rights and advantages whatsoever; save and except woods and underwoods, advowsons of churches, guardianships, disposals in marriage, and admission fines, which were wholly reserved. The lease was to run from the festival of the Nativity of S. John the Baptist next coming, to the end of thirty years; and the rent to be paid into the Treasury at Clerkenwell was ninety-three pounds, six shillings, and eight pence sterling per annum,

* MS. Lansd. 200, f. lxxix b.

payable in equal portions at the festivals of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin and of S. Barnabas the Apostle. Besides this, the following stipulations (to us the far more interesting part of the transaction) were to be most strictly observed. The aforesaid farmer and his assigns were to provide due and honest hospitality in the Preceptory, at their own expence; and also, at their own expence, to find, according to the ancient order, five chaplains, two of whom, Chaplains of the Cross, or two others whom the Prior should depute, were to be assigned to places in the Church of the Sisters at Buclande, one in the Chapel of the Preceptory, one at Bodmescumbe, and one at Durston, for the continual celebration of Divine Service. They were also to find maintenance and a chamber for one chaplain of the Prioress, and maintenance for the steward of her House and for his servant, with two cartloads of hay, every year of the term. They were to give to Alexander Vernay, Chaplain of Bodmescomb, whose appointment we have already noticed, a chamber with his fuel there, and eight marcs sterling as stipend, and for his food and raiment, according to the tenor of the agreement previously made with him. Besides this they were to pay to the Prioress and Convent yearly for their customary pension the sum of £22, and to the steward of the courts pertaining to the said Preceptory his regular salary. Still further, they were to bear all other ordinary and extraordinary burdens incumbent on the Preceptory until the end of the term, the aids to the treasury at Rhodes excepted. They were to keep the buildings, walls, enclosures, hedges, &c., in good repair, and to return them in as sound a state as they received them. If any of the buildings should become ruinous during the term, the Prior was to rebuild them, and the farmer and his assigns were to repair and maintain them

for the future. They were to find provision and attendance for three or four days and nights for the servants of the Prior coming with five or six horses twice a year on visitation to the said Preceptory, or for holding courts there. The aforesaid farmer and his assigns were to have housebote, fyrebote, ploughbote, cartbote, hedgebote, harobote, and foldebote, in and of the woods and underwoods of the said Preceptory by reasonable assignment and without waste. It was stipulated also that the Prior and his servants were to visit the said Preceptory whenever they pleased, and to hold courts and make leases; the farmer and his assigns to have the profits of the said courts, and to restore at the end of the term all the rolls of the courts, and leases, old and new, which should come to their hands during the interval. The farmer and his assigns were not to release their status in the Preceptory to any other holder without the licence of the Prior. If the rent went back, in part or in all, for two months after the dates above specified, it was to be lawful for the Prior to re-enter and take possession. If the profits of the contributions were suspended, the farmer and his assigns were to be allowed the difference, and to pay those monies only which they should actually receive. John Vernay bound himself to the performance of these agreements under a bond of two hundred pounds sterling; and also that at the end of the term he and his assigns should surrender to the Preceptor of Buclande all the ornaments of the chapel there, with all the stock living and dead. The document was signed with the seals of the Prior and of John Vernay aforesaid, and was "dated in our House of Clerkenwell, by London, in our Assembly holden there on the twentieth day of January, in the year of our Lord one thousand five hundredth."*

* MS. Lansd. 200, ff. lxxxiiii, lxxxiiii b. Appendix, No. XVIII.

It would appear either that this agreement was not observed, and that the alternative provided for came into operation, or that a transfer was effected with permission of the lessors; for so early as the 10th of March, 1507-8, at an "Assembly," holden on that day at the House at Clerkenwell, under the presidency of Thomas Docwra, Prior of England, assisted by Brother John Tong, Preceptor of Ribston, Mount S. John, and Carbrok; Brother Thomas Sheffeld, Preceptor of Bruerlay and Shengay; Brother Lancellot Docwra, Preceptor of Dynmore and Templecombe; Brother John Rawson, Preceptor of Swynfelde; and Brother Thomas Golyn, Preceptor of Baddisford and Dynglay, a lease of the Preceptory was granted to Edmund Myl, of Wellys, gentleman, and to Anna his wife, together with the manors of Bodmescomb and Cove, in the county of Devon. The terms of the lease are precisely similar to those already detailed, save that the special mention is omitted of Alexander Vernay, the Chaplain of Bodmescomb, who may be supposed to have departed this life during the interval.*

Once more a Confirmation was granted to the Sisters of their early privilege which has been so often before us. It is a document of a most curious kind, and especially so when we consider it with reference to the character of him from whom it came. In the second year of his reign, King Henry VIII. addressed letters of "inspeximus" to his beloved in Christ Thomas Docwra, Prior of the Hospital in England, recounting the terms of the previous letters, and granting through him to the Prioress and Sisters of Bucland a hundred and fifty-six cartloads of wood every year, from his park of Petherton, on the ground of their

* MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI. ff. liii b, liiii.

offering up constant and devout prayers for his own health and that of his dearest consort Katharine during their lifetime, and for their souls after their decease. Every cartload was to be of the draught of six horses or eight oxen ; and, inasmuch as the time was limited in the former letters to the interval between the festival of the Annunciation and that of All Saints, they were now at liberty to collect the firewood from the latter festival to that of S. George the Martyr, the 23rd of April. They were also permitted to place sufficient fences round those parts of the park where the future fuel was growing, so that the young shoots might not be damaged, and that cattle and other animals might not injure the same. It was also allowed them, if they saw fit, to gather the amount of two years in one, but in that case they were not to remove any during the whole of the following year. All these concessions were to be enjoyed without any payment to the keeper of the park, or any fine to the hanaper of the chancery. The instrument was dated at Canterbury, 5th April, 1511.*

This arrangement was of but short duration. Edmund Myl died, and his widow became the wife of Lionel Norres in 1514. The lease was surrendered, and the Prior and his Chapter granted an annuity of ten pounds, out of the issues of the Preceptory, for the term of the life of the survivor. The instrument was dated the 11th of January, 1514-5.†

In 1516, the property was leased to Henry Thorneton, gentleman, of Currymalett, for forty years, from the festival of the Nativity of S. John the Baptist next ensuing, at a rent of one hundred and three pounds, six shillings, and

* Confirm. 2 Hen. VIII., p. 10, n. 7.
† MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI. ff. cxlvii, cxlvii b.

eight pence sterling a year. The increase of ten pounds in the yearly rental which is thus apparent was to meet the annuity of the same amount, just mentioned, which was, however, to revert to the farmer on the death of the annuitants. The terms of the lease in other respects were similar to those of the former. It was dated at the House of S. John at Clerkenwell, 24th April, 1516.*

It will be recollected that, by the conditions of the previous leases, there was an express reservation of the wood, underwood, and reparations of buildings. An indenture was made between Thomas Docwra, Prior of the Hospital of S. John of Jerusalem in England, and his brethren Knights of the same on the one part, and Henry Thornton, farmer of their Commandry of Bukeland, gentleman, on the other, by which the former covenanted, bargained, and sold for the residue of his lease unto the said Henry and his assigns all their wood and underwood lying, standing, and growing in their wood within the lordship of Hals, called Hals wood, containing by estimation 40 acres, save and except two trees of "oke" in the same wood, of the best "okes" that will and may serve for timber for the said Prior and his brethren, and their successors. For this concession the said Henry paid £20 sterling, with which the said Prior confessed himself to be well and truly satisfied and contented. It was agreed that the said Henry Thornton should repair and maintain at his own cost all manner of the houses and buildings; that it should be lawful for the said Henry to stub and grub all the said wood and underwood; and that he might, if he pleased, without impeachment of waste or destruction, alter, transpose and change such houses and buildings, provided that

* MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI., ff. clxii b, clxiii, clxiii b.

he made others in their stead. He bound himself and his heirs in the sum of £100 for the due performance of this engagement, which was entered into in the Chapter holden in the House of S. John's of Clerkenwell beside London, the 2nd of October, 1519.*

It should be remarked, that, although no mention is made in these documents of the Preceptor and his assistants at Buckland, we are not to conclude for certain, how likely soever, that such personages did not exist; because, according to the rule of the Order, as we have repeatedly noticed, they were simply officials, and the direction of their estates was virtually in the hands of the Superior at Clerkenwell. It would appear, nevertheless, that a change had taken place in the general mode of management. The position of the Preceptor and his Brethren, if such officers were still in being, which I hardly believe, was clearly very different from what it was when the accounts of their predecessors just two centuries before were so minutely laid open to our inspection.

On the same day as the date of the last instrument, the 2nd of October, 1519, the Prior and Chapter leased for a term of forty years, to the said Henry Thornton, farmer of Bucland, a tenement with its appurtenances, late in the tenure of John Curson, situated and lying in the parish of S. Clement Danes, outside Temple Bar. The rent was 40s. sterling a-year.†

We are now close upon times of trouble. I have already in previous Memoirs entered fully into the history of the unscrupulous movement which terminated in the violent suppression of the Religious Houses, and the wholesale

* MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI., ff. clxxxiiii, clxxxiiii b.

† MS. Cott. Claud. E. VI., f. clxxxviii.

robbery of their possessions. The main features of that odious tragedy are necessarily the same in every instance, although the details are as various as the multiform shapes in which tyranny, falsehood, sacrilege, and murder can present themselves and be exemplified when under no restraint nor necessity to deceive. Happily, therefore, there will not be any need to take the reader over ground with which he is already acquainted, and which is too unlovely to be voluntarily allowed to detain us. I will, accordingly, introduce him to the particular and special information which I have succeeded in gathering in connexion with the House on the history of which we are now employed.

Is is singular that no Declaration of the King's Supremacy, made either by the officers of the Preceptory or by the Sisterhood, has been preserved. It may be presumed that such was submitted to and accepted by them, but the record of the transaction is not extant.

Immediately afterwards, with a view to apportion the payment voted to the King for the support of his new dignity, followed the well-known "Valor." It is a most important document, as furnishing us with a minute account of the possessions of the House, with its income and expenditure in customary deductions, on the eve of the dissolution. I will, therefore, present the reader with its details, only more lucidly arranged than in their original and obscure form. Under each head he will thus be able without difficulty to see the gross and net values of the estates, both before and after the dues, stipends, and other disbursements had been accounted for and liquidated, and the subsequent surplus which remained for the maintenance of the House itself.

PRIORY OF MYNCHYN BOCKELAND.

Declaration of the Extent and Annual Value of all and singular the Lands and Tenements and other Possessions, with the Tithes, Oblations, and all other Issues of the divers Benefices and Chapels belonging and appropriated to the aforesaid Priory as below appeareth, namely in the time of Katerina Bowghshere, now Prioress at the same place, approved and examined by the Commissioners aforenamed [Sir Andrew Lutterell and Hugh Mallet, Esqr., Commissioners; Hugh Trotter and John Plompton, Auditors.].

Lands round the Priory.

Value in issues of the Demesne Lands, remaining in the hands of the Prioress, and taxed by four trustworthy men. Thus clear	cxvij^{s} viij^{d}

Boockeland.

Value in assessed Rents as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum ..	xxij^{li}	
Out of this, per annum,		xxj^{li} xix^{s} iij^{d}
For a chief rent there to the Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England	ix^{d}	
So clear		
Fines of land there		xx^{s}

Wellys.

Value in Rents of divers burgages there, per annum	xlix^{s}	
Out of this, per annum,		
For rent to the Bishop of Bath ..	ix^{d}	
For the fee of William Vowell, steward there	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	xxxj^{s} vij^{d}
For the fee of Alexander Pophame, bailiff there	iij^{s} iiij^{d}	
And there remains clear		

GOTTON.

Assessed Rents as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum	iiij^{li} xj^{s}	iiij^{li} x^{s}
Out of which, per annum, For rent to the Abbat of Glastonbury	xij^{d}	
And there remains clear		

NORTHPETHERTON.

Assessed Rents as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum	xxiij^{li} ix^{d}	
Out of which, per annum, For a priest in the parish church there, celebrating daily for the souls of Henry Erley and others, by agreement ..	vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	xiiij^{li} ix^{d}
For the fee of John Walton, steward there	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
For the fee of John Bekyn, bailiff there	xxxiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
And there remains clear		
Fines of lands there, per annum	xxx^{s}	xxxiiij^{s}
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties	iiij^{s}	

BRYMTON RAFF.

Assessed Rents there, per annum, clear ..	xxiiij^{s} viij^{d}

CADECOTE.

Rent of one tenement there, per annum, clear	ij^{s} iiij^{d}

HOREWOODE.

Rent of one tenement there, per annum, clear	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

ASSHE AND THORNEFFAWCON.

Assessed Rents there, per annum ..	xlvij^{s} vj^{d}	xlv^{s} vj^{d}
Out of which, per annum,		
For the fee of John Popham, bailiff there	ij^{s}	
And there remains clear		

COUNTY OF DORSET.

CHYLDCOMB.

Assessed Rents there, per annum, clear ..		xiiij^{li}

PEMESLEGH IN SHYLBORNE.

Assessed Rents as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum	xiiij^{li} iij^{s} viij^{d}	xiij^{li} ix^{s} iiij^{d}
Out of which, per annum,		
For rent to the Bishop of Sarum	xij^{d}	
For the fee of John Hely, bailiff there	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
And there remains clear		
Perquisites of the Courts there and other Casualties ..	iij^{s} iiij^{d}	xx^{s}
Fines of lands	xvj^{s} viij^{d}	

VALUE OF SPIRITUALS, AS UNDER.

COUNTY OF SOMERSET.

RECTORY OF BOCKELAND WITH THE CHAPEL OF MIHILL CHURCH.

Issues of predial tithes	vij^{s} xj^{d}	xij^{s} v^{d}
Of personal tithes..	iij^{s}	
Other casualties there, in common years	xviij^{d}	
Clear		

RECTORY OF KYLMERSDON.

Issues of predial and personal tithes	xviij^{li} x^{s}	xviij^{li} xv^{s}
Demesne Lands, with other casualties there, in common years ..	v^{s}	

Clear

BROMEFYLD.

Issues of predial and personal tithes, demesne lands, with other casualties there, in common years	viij^{li} v^{s}	viij^{li} iij^{s}
Out of which, per annum, To the Archdeacon of Taunton, for synodals	ij^{s}	

So clear

RECTORY OF NORTHPETHERTON.

Issues of predial and personal tithes, with other casualties there, in common years..	xxiiij^{li} x^{d}	xxiij^{li} xj^{s} j^{d} ob'.
Out of which, per annum, To the Bishop of Bath, for procurations ..	ij^{s} iij^{d}	
To the Archdeacon of Taunton, for synodals	vij^{s} v^{d} ob'	

So clear

BRIGGEWATER.

A pension from the Prior there, for tithes of Horsy Mede, per annum. Clear .. .. .. viij^{s}

CANYNGTON.

A pension from the Prioress there, for tithes of Cleyhull, per annum. Clear .. .. .. vij^{s}

STONDENHAY.

A pension from Alexander Popham, for tithes there, per annum. Clear .. .. .. xl^{s}

County of Lincoln.

Dyrton.

Issues of tithes of all kinds ..	xxix^{li}	xxviij^{li} xv^{s} iiij^{d}
Demesne Lands with other casualties, in common years	xxij^{s}	
Out of which, per annum, For the fee of Gothlac Overton, the receiver there ..	xxvj^{s} viij^{d}	
Clear		

Donyngton.

Issues of tithes of all kinds, demesne lands, with other casualties, in common years	x^{li}	ix^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}
Out of which, per annum, For the fee of Gothlac Overton, the receiver there	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
Clear		

Essex.

Preceptory of Raynhame.

A Pension paid by William Weston, Prior of S. John of Jerusalem in England, per annum. Clear .. c^{s}

Somerset.

Preceptory of Temple Comb.

A Pension paid by Brother Edmund Husey there, per annum. Clear .. .. xxvj^{s} viij^{d}

Kent.

Preceptory of Swynfyld.

A Pension paid by Brother Edward Brown there, per annum. Clear .. .. xl^{s}

NORTHAMPTON.

PRECEPTORY OF KERBROKE.

A Pension paid by Brother John Rawson there, per annum. Clear .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

KING'S ALMS.

Receipt by the hands of the Sheriff of Hereford yearly in the Exchequer of our Lord the King. Clear .. .. vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

SOMERSET.

CHURCH OF POWLET.

Annual Pension there. Clear .. .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

CHURCH OF NORTHPETHERTON.

Annual Pension there. Clear .. .. .. liij^{s} iiij^{d}

CHURCH OF TOLLANDE.

Annual Pension there. Clear .. .. .. ij^{s}

CHURCH OF BERYNTON.

Annual Pension there. Clear .. .. .. xx^{s}

TEMPORALS.

DEVON.

HELE, IN TAWSTOKE PARISH.

Assessed Rents as well of Free as of Customary Tenants, per annum, there ..	xxiij^{li} xvj^{s} iiij^{d} q'	xxij^{li} xix^{s} viij^{d} q'.
Out of which, per annum, For the fee of Thomas Perd, steward there	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}	
For the fee of Richard Payn, receiver there	iij^{s} iiij^{d}	
And so clear		

Fines of lands there, per annum, ..	xx^{s}	xxiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Perquisites of the Courts and other Casualties	iij^{s} iiij^{d}	

CORNWALL.

BRODE WOODE WYGGER.

Assessed Rents as well of the Free as of the Customary Tenants there, per annum. Clear	lxxv^{s} iiij^{d} ob'.
Sum total of the value as well of all the Temporals as of the Spirituals above mentioned	ccxxiij^{li} vij^{s} iiij^{d} q'.
The tithe from thence	xxij^{li} vj^{s} ix^{d} *

Such was the precise state and value of the property in the 27th year of Henry VIII., 1534.

The "Valor" gives us also the names of the following as Incumbents of benefices at the period of its formation :—

John Aisshelok was rector of Beckyngton, Thomas Thomson was vicar of Kilmersdon, Thomas Hill was vicar of Halse, John Dawes was rector of Hethfelde, Robert Balche was vicar of Powlet, John Bulcume was vicar of Northpetherton, John Langdon, Walter Jones and John Saunders were chantry priests in the same church, and John Crosse was rector of Tolland.†

This return confirmed the desires and paved the way for a carefully planned course of systematic aggression. Before, however, we enter into the narrative of the closing scenes, which are now rapidly drawing onwards, it will be best to dispose of a few particulars which would not be so well introduced in a subsequent page.

* Val. Eccl., vol. I., pp. 210, 211. MS. Harl. 701, f. 104b.
† Val. Eccl. I., 159, 160, 172, 212, 214, 223.

So far as we can learn from the details already presented, and I believe they are very nearly all that can now be recovered, the Sisters of Buckland, although constantly numbering in their community the daughters of great and noble houses, were but slenderly supported, and for a long time at least very far from adequately provided for. They were considered also in the light of a burden and grievance by the Officers charged in a special degree with their direction and general well-being. At first consisting, as it would seem, but of a Prioress and nine Sisters, the Society amounted in the year 1338 to so many as fifty ladies, who, together with their servants, must have needed a considerable revenue. No doubt but that a great part of the cost of their maintenance was defrayed, as the Preceptor then hinted in his return, by eleemosynary contributions from the neighbourhood and more distant friends. Their precise relationship to the Order of S. John has been, I think, greatly misunderstood. It has been said that they "had, at first, great dependance upon the knights, but afterward they disengaged themselves, and became a distinct Priory or Hospital of Nuns of the order of S. Augustine;"* and that "there is no mention of their being subordinate to any other Religious."† The contrary, as it appears to me, has been clearly shown. At no time were they distinct or independant. Their chaplain and steward were always officers of the Order; and they received their ancient pensions, and were accounted "obedientiariæ" down to the period of the Dissolution. That the Priory was distinct from the Commandry as a religious Community is, of course, certain; for it was the very reason of its foundation that the Sister-

* Tanner, Not. Mon. by Nasmith. † *Ib.*

hood might be thus separated. But their union with the Order itself was never, that I can discover, broken. And the fact that they are called Nuns of the Order of S. Augustine is not to be understood as militating against this view, inasmuch as the Hospitalars, as well as the Templars, were members of that numerous body of Conventual Societies which accepted the rule of S. Austin as the guide of their religious life. Tanner's subsequent assertion that "it doth not appear when or by whom the Preceptory was founded, but some have thought it more ancient than the Nunnery," is so fully answered in the previous pages that it need not occupy us further.

Another and very conclusive evidence, at once of their obedientiary position and of their unbroken union with the Order, is exhibited in the fact that from beginning to end they did not so much as present to their appropriated rectories. I have recovered the following names of the incumbents of the parishes down to the time of the Suppression, and doubt not that, to the local reader especially, the lists, however imperfect, will be objects of considerable interest. It will be seen that the Prior of England, and neither the Prioress nor the Preceptor of Buckland, was the patron in every instance :—

Incumbents of North Petherton:—John de Messingham, 4th March, 1309-10; Laurence de Cherleton, 19th October, 1310; William de Dychton, 2nd August, 1313.* These were presented by Prior William de Tothale. Thomas de Foxtone, 6th September, 1332 ; presented by Prior Leonard de Tybertis. Nicholas de Somerton, 15th December, 1342; Nicholas de la Mor, 3rd October, 1345 ; William de Avene, 26th April, 1347; Reginald de Fardyngeston, 24th

* MS. Harl. 6964, pp. 10, 12, 51.

February, 1348-9;* presented by Prior Philip de Thame. John Harowe, A.M., 18th January, 1504-5; William Parkhowse, A.M., 8th June, 1523; presented by Prior Thomas Docwra. John Bulcombe, 30th October, 1531;† presented by Prior William Weston.

Incumbents of Kilmersdon: — William ——, 26th November, 1331; John de Messyngham, 6th January, 1334-5; presented by Prior Leonard de Tybertis. John de Upton, 3rd August, 1341; Nicholas de Stanlak, 22nd August, 1348; John Markwille, 13th December, 1348;‡ presented by Prior Philip de Thame. Robert Symond, ——; Thomas Bourgchier, 14th September, 1521; James Harwode, 20th April, 1524; presented by Prior Thomas Docwra. Thomas Pullon, ——; John Tomason, (Thomas Thomson, of the "Valor") 17th June, 1534;‖ presented by Prior William Weston.

Incumbents of Elworthy:—John de Messingham, 19th October, 1310; William de Jarponnyle, 16th October, 1315; presented by Prior William de Tothale. Ralph de Hokynton, 24th November, 1323; Richard de Coute, 19th September, 1327;§ presented by Prior Thomas L'Archer. William Legh, 26th April, 1339; John de Sutton, 30th May, 1346; Walter de Chadleshounte, 28th August, 1349; John le Potter, 16th August, 1351;¶ presented by Prior Philip de Thame. Stephen Chapman, ——; John Trevennaunt, 15th March, 1455-6;** presented by Prior Robert Botyll. John Poole, ——; Edmund Sterne, 26th October,

* MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 61, 155, 173, 185, 203.
† MS. Harl. 6967, pp. 3, 42, 44b.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 46, 84, 146, 191, 193.
‖ MS. Harl. 6967, pp. 29b, 34b, 47.
§ MS. Harl. 6964, pp. 12, 33, 84, 115.
¶ MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 126, 176, 219, 237.
** MS. Harl. 6966, p. 83.

1506 ; Robert Bailly, 5th May, 1509 ;* presented by Prior Thomas Docwra.

Incumbents of Halse:—Richard Philip, ——; Thomas Hyll, L.L.B., 23rd January, 1505-6 ;† presented by Prior Thomas Docwra.

Incumbents of Heathfield :—Owen de Cory, ——; Robert de Pippecote, 28th September, 1332 ; presented by Prior Leonard de Tybertis. Richard de Poterne, 4th July, 1346 ; Richard Payn, 22nd April, 1348; William Redmor, 4th February, 1348-9 ;‡ John de Donne, 1354 ;‖ presented by Prior Philip de Thame. Thomas Banys, —— ; William Meyre, 10th March, 1505-6 ; presented by Prior Thomas Docwra. Edward Kebyll, ——; John Dawes, 2nd June, 1534;§ presented by Prior William Weston.

Incumbents of Tolland :—William de Banton, 20th January, 1265 ;¶ presented by Prior Roger de Vere. Gilbert de Quenton, ——; William de Quenton, 11th April, 1320 ;** William Morys, 28th August, 1349 ; Nicholas de Blenye, ——; Walter Stammel, 8th July, 1351 ;†† presented by Prior Philip de Thame. Walter Crosse, ——; John Crosse, A.M., 25th May, 1517 ;‡‡ presented by Prior Thomas Docwra.

It was doubtless for the peace of the Sisterhood that its members were so little called upon to interfere in the more secular affairs of their House. If power were less freely

* MS. Harl. 6967, pp. 6b, 11.
† MS. Harl. 6967, p. 5b.
‡ MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 64, 176, 189, 201.
‖ Hyll Cart. pp. 52, 53.
§ MS. Harl. 6967, pp. 5b, 47.
¶ MS. Harl. 6985 B., p. 121b.
** MS. Harl. 6964, p. 45.
†† MS. Harl. 6965, pp. 219, 236.
‡‡ MS. Harl. 6967, p. 23b.

imparted, we may hope that anxiety was removed in an equal measure. The maintenance of their rights was in stronger hands than their own; and the benefit was theirs without the labour and danger which its defence involved. The instance of the rector of Beckington is exactly in point. When the payment of his annual pension was not forthcoming, as we have seen, in the year 1353, the Prioress and Sisters had not to endure the ordeal of prosecuting their suit in person against the defaulter, but it was the great Prior of England who came to the rescue, and obtained the remedy which the law provided.

The daily life of these ladies in the privacy of their conventual home had, we may be sure, little to disturb its repose, save the occasional matters which we have had detailed, in which they were brought into contact with the noisy world without. They had little if any intercourse with the adjacent Commandry; as, in the first place, the statutes of the Order were imperative against the admission of women to domestic offices; and, in the second, the feeling existing between the two Societies was not such as to conduce to intimacies of a higher character. For the former position, indeed, their generally noble or gentle birth, and for the latter, their attitude, always, as would appear, antagonistic, equally disqualified them. Nor is there a single instance related of them (or I would have honestly mentioned it, as my object has invariably been to present as truthful an aspect as lies in my power of those Houses and their inmates whose chronicles I seek to rescue from oblivion), of any violation of the laws of morality. So far as we know—and we should be pretty sure to have some evidences of the contrary fact had it existed —the tongue of scandal itself was dumb. The blameless Sisterhood pursued its way of peace, broken only by

trifling and unfrequent interruptions, or terminated by the end that comes alike to all. We may be well assured that the House was one of those, where, with all the religion, all the education of the age was encouraged, and where both religion and education yielded to the full their refined and refining influences. It was no doubt also a noted seminary for the daughters of the great neighbouring families. The Berkeleys, Erleghs, Montacutes, Wrothams, Bouchers and others were quite at home at Buckland, and learned from the good Sisters all the mental accomplishments which they in after life possessed. Reading, writing, some knowledge of accounts, the art of embroidery, music, and French, "aftur the scole of Stratford atte Bowe," was the recognised course of study; and we should wrong alike the teachers and the taught if we regarded the result as unfavourable. The life of intellectuality and religious quiet had many charms; and the pupil was doubtless so frequently enamoured of the contrast between it and that with which she was brought in contact elsewhere, that instances were not wanting of a resignation of all the worldly advantages that high birth and powerful connexions could impart to their possessor, and of a permanent abode as Sister or as Prioress within the venerable and well beloved walls of her early and holy home.

We have already noticed that, in the return made to the Grand Master of the Order in 1338, the Sisters are described as wearing the habit of the Hospital. The chief peculiarity of this consisted of a black mantle with a white cross in the front. In other respects the general attire of the ladies was, I presume, that of the members of Augustinian Sisterhoods—a black cloak with a long cowl, a short upper white tunic over a longer black one, and a whimple which covered the bosom and ascended in many folds to the chin.

RINGS

Found near the Site of Mynchin Buckland Priory.

(Actual Size.)

Drawn and Engraved for the REV. THOMAS HUGO'S *History of Buckland Priory.*

I possess two interesting rings, which may be supposed to have decorated the fingers of more than one generation of the Sisters, and may indeed have been employed at the solemn ceremony which separated them for ever from the outer world and introduced them to the seclusion in which they sought and, we will believe, found repose. The earlier of the two is a work of the thirteenth century, and may so far have belonged to the good Prioress Fina herself. It is of gold, set with an unwrought sapphire, the hoop very thin and delicately engraved on the portions adjoining the stone. It was found in "Coglett Field," by the site of the Priory, in 1858, by a labourer employed on the place. *(See the figure.)* The other, also of gold, but much stouter, is of the fifteenth century, and bears a heart on which is engraved the monogram ihs. It was found by another labourer in a field called "Broadworthy," close to the site of the Priory, in 1853. *(See the figure.)* Another, which was described to me as of a cable pattern, was found in the immediate neighbourhood, in 1851, and has since been taken by its owner to one of our colonies.

No list of the Prioresses has hitherto been constructed. In the meagre accounts of the place already published, the name of the last only is given, and that but in connexion with the Dissolution and the events which almost immediately preceded it. Their succession is not recorded in the Episcopal Registers, and thus the best of all means of obtaining information of the names and dates of Superiors of Religious Houses is unfortunately in this instance of no avail. From all sources, however, I can at length supply the following series.

1. Fina, the first Prioress, who began her conventual reign in 1180, and died sixty years afterwards, in 1240.

2. M——, previous to 1328.

3. Isabella la Louwe occurs in 1328.

4. Isabel de Berch occurs in 1330.

5. Katharine de Erlegh occurs in 1337.

6. Alianor de Actune (?) about 1350.

7. Alicia occurs in 1405.

8. Katharine Bowser, Bowrghshere, Bourgcher, Bourgchier, Bourgheyr, Burgchier, Bourcher, or Boucher, the last Prioress, occurs in 1534, 1536, 1538, and 1539. The prominent facts in the life of this lady we shall shortly have before us in detail.

In this list I have not thought it necessary to enter into the circumstances connected with each of the Prioresses, as they have either been already given in the previous pages or will be presented to the reader before the conclusion of the History.

Collinson, from "MS. Palmer," says that Rachel Newton was Prioress in 1537, and that Elizabeth Carey and Catherine Nevil, Sisters of the House, were living in 1565, and married, the first to Thomas Speed, and the second to the Vicar of Ling. That these statements are entirely erroneous, I am able to prove by reference to the official list of the last members of the Sisterhood, which shall be given in its proper place, and wherein no such names appear. This must be held conclusive.

Of the Preceptors

1. John de Werewell occurs in 1320.

2. John Diluwe occurs in 1338.

3. Richard Marcis in 1536. This last I give on the authority of Collinson, who does not, however, add the source of his information, which may be as inaccurate and idle as the instance just before us.

My previous pages will supply the names of several

members of each community at various periods of their history. To these the reader is referred.

Of the local features of the Priory and Preceptory we have no account save the incidental notices of various buildings in the Return of 1338, and a Survey mentioned by Collinson, from "MS. Palmer," as having been taken in the year 1571, when much of the conventual structure would have been altered if not totally destroyed. These notices relate exclusively to the Preceptory. In the former, as the reader will recollect, we have mention made of a court-house, a bakehouse, a dovecot, and a small church. The latter shows that the house of the Preceptor and his brethren was on the north side of the great church, and was called at the period of the Survey "the House of the Lord Prior's steward." It must not, however, be inferred from this absence of detail that the Priory was otherwise than well fitted for its inmates. The religious communities of the middle ages were usually occupants of structures of incomparable excellence, and we may be tolerably sure that such a Sisterhood as that of Buckland was no exception to this constant rule. Their abode was no doubt a picturesque group of buildings, to which nothing but the glorious architecture of mediæval times could have given existence; buildings ever lovely themselves, and attracting the love of all that look upon them with rightly appreciating and understanding eyes. It is much to be regretted that Leland who was in the immediate neighbourhood, if not at the very place, does not furnish us with a description of the scene. He pleasantly describes the park from whence the Sisters obtained their firewood, and the deer with which it abounded. "There ys a great Numbre of Dere longging to this (Pederton) Park, yet hath it almost no other Enclosure but Dikes to let [obstruct] the Catelle of the

Commune to cum yn. The Dere trippe over these Dikes & feede al about the Fennes, and resort to the Park agayn. There is a praty Lodge motid yn the Park. There cummyth a praty Broke thorough the Park, & half a Mile beneth the Park it goith ynto Ivel. * * * * From the Lodge in Pederton Parke to Northpederton a Mile.* But he leaves the home of the Sisters without a word, and no care can now avail to supply its absence.

The Conventual Church was as usual a place of sepulture. It is true that we have but few visible evidences of the fact, though we still possess some which shall be subsequently described. I am happy, however, to perpetuate the testimony of an aged gentleman, whom I lately visited at Durston, and who kindly communicated his recollections of the place. He perfectly remembered the house belonging in his youth to the Lords Boringdon, which had been erected in the seventeenth century, with a noble hall of oak wainscot, "large enough to turn a coach and horses in." This he had himself helped to take down more than seventy years ago. Adjacent to it was an ancient chapel with a bell-gable, which was used for Sacred Service and in which he had been baptised, that shared at the same time the fate of the house. He remembered to have seen several monuments, with figures of men, some of them bearing shields on their arms. There were, so far as he recollected, no monuments of women; nor were there any ornaments, such as rings and the like, or money found during the alterations. Several hundred loads of stone were carted away, including some pieces of sculpture which were placed in a gentleman's garden at West Monkton. Thus much from my observant narrator. I was subsequently informed that the gentle-

* Leland, Itin., vol. II., p. 66.

man alluded to was fond of decorating his grounds with relics from various localities; so that, if these objects yet exist, which I have been unable to discover, they could not be attributed to Buckland with any degree of certainty.

We will now take up the narrative from the point at which we left it.

On the 10th of December, 1534, Katherina Burgchier,* Prioress, and the Convent of Bockeland granted to John Popham, gentleman, the first and next advowson, donation, nomination, presentation or free disposition of the parish church of Tolor, in the County of Dorset, whenever by death, resignation, deprivation, cession, or any other mode of avoidance, it should first and next chance to be vacant; the said advowson and presentation to be holden by the aforesaid John Popham and his executors and assigns for that one turn only. The Court of Augmentation confirmed this grant on the 20th of June, 1544.†

On the 31st of January, 1536, Katherina Boucher, Prioress, and her Sisters granted an annuity of £4 for life to John Tregunwell, doctor of laws, and one of the councillors of the most potent and dread king "potentissimi et metuendissimi regis" Henry VIII. It was to be paid in two equal portions, one at the festival of our Lord's Nativity, and the other on that of S. John the Baptist, and was stated to be in consideration of his counsel already and hereafter to be given.

* I scarcely need to remind the reader, who may be struck with the frequent variations in the orthography of proper names, that, throughout this and other Histories of Religious Houses, I invariably give them as they appear in the document which supplies the information then and there detailed.

† Orders and Decrees of the Court of Augmentation, vol. XIV., 2nd Nos. ff. 38b., 39.

I fear that this must be considered in the light of a bribe, or at best as a retaining fee for services which the receiver never intended to render, rather than for any valuable return either past or future. It was doubtless considered prudent to conciliate, as other communities did, the good will of a man of known and acknowledged influence, who might be of use in the troublous days on which the Religious Societies instinctively felt themselves to be entering. If the annuity were left unpaid for three months, the creditor had power to distrain on their lands in the county of Somerset. This grant was allowed by the Court of Augmentation, on the 11th of October, 1539, and ordered to be paid with the arrears from the time of the Dissolution.*

On the 10th of September in the same year, 1536, Katerina Bourgchier and Convent gave to Alexander Popham the office of Steward of their House or Hospital of Bokeland, with plenary authority in all matters appertaining thereunto, and also the profits and emoluments arising therefrom, together with an annuity of £4 of good and lawful English money, and one livery gown of the value of twenty shillings, or twenty shillings in lieu thereof. They also gave him the office of Receiver of all and singular the rents of their lands and tenements in Shirborne, in the county of Dorset, the duties to be performed either by himself or by a sufficient deputy, and an annuity of thirteen shillings and four pence, to be paid at Michaelmas during his life. If these sums remained unpaid for fifteen days, the said Alexander was empowered to enter and distrain on their lands in the parish of Northepetherton. The Court of Augmentation ordered the continuance of this annuity with arrears from the Dissolution, on the 7th of November, 1539.†

* Orders and Decrees, vol. VI., ff. clxxxix, clxxxix b.
† Orders and Decrees, vol. VI., ff. iiiiˣˣxiiii, iiiiˣˣxiiii b.

On the 1st of August, 1538, Katerina Bourgcher, Prioress, and Convent granted to the same Alexander Popham, for good counsel and faithful service, an annuity of six pounds thirteen shillings and fourpence, issuing from all their lands and tenements in the parish of Northpetherton, to be paid in equal portions at the feasts of Michaelmas, Christmas, Easter and S. John the Baptist. After non-payment for a month, he might enter and distrain on the lands in the parish of Northepetherton. This also, with arrears from the Dissolution, was ordered by the Court of Augmentation, on the same day as that of the previous order, the 7th of November, 1539.*

On the 1st of August, 1538, Katerina Bourgheyr, Prioress, and Convent granted to William Porteman, of Orchard, gentleman, in return for good counsel already and thereafter to be given, an annuity of twentysix shillings and eightpence, issuing from their manor of Northpetherton, and from all their lands and tenements within that parish, to be paid yearly at Michaelmas. Here we have another instance of the extortions by submission to which the Religious Houses were obliged to secure the favour of the powerful, and also of the gross venality which characterized those who could without shame appropriate such infamous gains. No wonder that these were the men who soon afterwards were the foremost to struggle for the spoil. Non-payment for a month was to empower him to enter and distrain. This also was ordered to be continued for his life, together with arrears from the Dissolution, on the 4th of July, 1539.†

On the 2nd of October, 1538, an Indenture was made between "Dame Kateryn Bourcher, Priorisse of the House of Suster Buckland, and the Covent of the same House,

* Orders and Decrees, vol. VI, ff. iiii^{xx}xvi, iiii^{xx}xvi b.
† Orders and Decrees, vol. X., ff. iiic^{xxx}iiii b, iiic^{xxx}v.

of the one partye, and John Popham, gent., cytizen and haberdassher of London, of the other partye." This instrument, which, as the reader will have already perceived, is in English, sets forth, that, after the payment by the said John of a sum of twenty mares sterling, the Prioress and Convent demised, granted, and let to farm all their parsonage of Kyrton, in the County of Lincoln, with all the glebe lands, and the tithes of corn, wool, and lambs, and all other profits of the said parsonage, the fourth sheaf paid to the lord Prior of S. John of Jerusalem always excepted and reserved. They also demised, granted, and let to farm the parsonage of Donnyngton, in the said County of Lincoln, with all the glebe lands, tithes, and profits of all kinds appertaining thereunto. These parsonages were let on a lease of forty years from the festival of the Nativity of S. John the Baptist next coming after. The rent was nine and thirty pounds sterling per annum, to be paid yearly at the festival of S. Barnaby the Apostle, that is to say, for Kyrton nine and twenty pounds, and for Donnyngton ten pounds. It was agreed to that the said John Popham should pay to the Vicar of Kyrton, every year at the feast of the Nativity of S. John the Baptist, the sum of four pounds seven shillings and seven pence: the Prioress and Convent to pay synodals and other claims due to the king and all other persons; and to maintain, sustain, and repair the said parsonages, houses and walls at their own proper cost and charge. If the rent were not paid for the space of a quarter of a year, the Prioress and Convent might re-enter and expulse the said John and his executors and assigns. These terms were allowed and confirmed by the Court of Augmentation, on the 6th of November, 1539.*

* Orders and Decrees, vol. VI. ff. cviii, cviii b, cix.

The minuteness with which these and previous details have been presented to the reader will not be considered out of place or without value by any who desire to be acquainted with the state, habits and customs of ecclesiastical and civil England, as well as with the vicissitudes of this particular House, during the interesting period of the middle ages. They know that with this very minuteness much of the value and interest of researches like the present are necessarily associated. And for such students, I may add, my labours are intended.

It would appear that the family of Popham was benefitted in no ordinary degree by its connexion with the Priory. By a deed dated in their Chapter House, the 18th of January, 1539, Katherina Bourcher, Prioress, and Convent granted to Marmaduke Popham the office of Receiver of all and singular the rents of their Rectories of Kyrton and Denendon, in the County of Lincoln, the duties to be performed either by himself or by a sufficient deputy, with an annuity of forty shillings issuing from their lands and tenements at Premsleye, in the County of Dorset, to be paid at Michaelmas. On non-payment for a month after date, he was empowered to enter and distrain on their lands in Premsleye. The Court of Augmentation ordered the continuance of this annuity, with arrears from the Dissolution, on the 8th of November, 1539.*

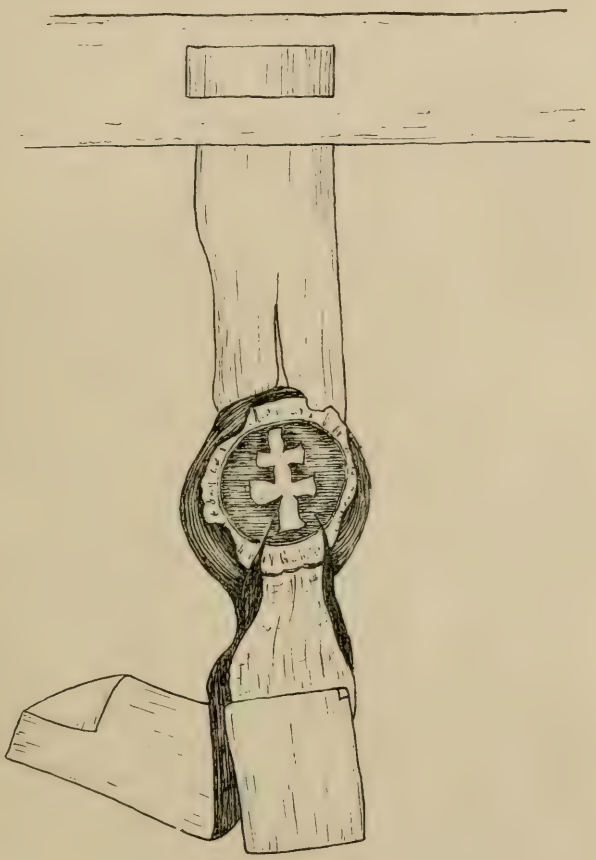
This was the last official act that the Prioress and her Sisters performed previous to that involuntary one which placed all similar transactions at once and for ever beyond their power. The final blow was just about to fall, and but a brief respite yet awaited them. A short month elapsed and all was over.

* Orders and Decrees, vol. VI., f. 1.

On the 10th of February, 1539, the Chapter-house of Buckelonde was witness of the most melancholy scene that had ever been enacted within its walls. It was on that day that the Prioress and Convent were summoned to meet the Commissioners John Tregonwell and William Peter, and unwillingly affixed their conventual seal to the instrument of Surrender.* This was the conclusion of so much that piety and refinement had laboured at and brought to perfection, a conclusion whereof it is difficult to speak as its monstrous enormity deserves. The document still exists in the Record Office, with the impression of the seal appended. In the brief notice of this House by the last editors of the *Monasticon*, it is said that an impression had been seen by one of them, but so wholly flattened that no part of the subject of it could be discovered. This, if intended for the present, which I have every reason to believe, hardly gives a fair description of its state. The legend, indeed, belies its name, for it is illegible; but the device in the centre is clearly that of a Greek or Patriarchal Cross. *(See the figure.)* The form of the instrument itself is the one that was generally adopted, prepared as usual beforehand, and requiring merely the insertion of the name and style of the doomed House, and the signatures and seal of the pillaged inmates. In the case before us the signatures are wanting. It was, perhaps, too mournful a task and hard an effort for the unhappy Sisters to set their hands to a document which consigned them to everlasting exile from their ancient and beloved home. And, accordingly, the Commissioner John Tregonwell was fain to content himself with the subscription of his own name in the stead of other and better.†

* MS. Lansd. 97, f. 3b.

† Autograph. in Off. Record. Rymer, Fœd. XIV., p. 634.



(Actual Size.)

SEAL OF MYNCHIN BUCKLAND PRIORY,

From the "Surrender", Offs. Aug.

Tho. Hugo del. & lith. 1861.

I am able to furnish, from the unimpeachable authority of an original Pension List, the names and pensions of the entire Community who were witnesses of the ruin of their House. There were at the period of the Dissolution the Prioress and thirteen Sisters. Katheryn Bowser, Prioress, had a pension of £50 a year; Margaret Sydnam, subprioress, £4 13s. 4d.; Julyan Kendall, £4 6s. 8d.; Jone Hyll, £4; Anne Plummer, £4; Tomysyn Huntyngton, £4; Katheryn Popham, £4; Anne Maunsell, £4; Mary Dodyngton, £4; Ales Emerforde, £4; Jane Babyngton, £4; Mary Mathew, £4; Agnes Mathew, £4; and Isabell Grene, £4. There was also Priest William Mawdesley, confessor, and professed of their Order, who had a pension of £4. The document is signed :—Jo. Tregonwell, William Petre.* Dr. Archer says that the Prioress had also a gratuity of £25.†

In order to furnish all that we know of the subsequent history of these ladies, together with some notices of the officers and others, to whom, as we have already seen, orders were given for the continuance of their grants, I may add that in the year 1556 there remained charged upon the government the stipend of Alexander Popham, chief steward, 100s.; and annuities to—Alexander Popham, £6 13s. 4d.; John Tregonwell, £4; William Porteman, 26s. 8d.; and John Butler, 13s. 4d. Besides these, there were pensions to the following of the surviving Sisters. The orthography varies from that already given, but the persons can be easily identified. Johanna Hille, £4;‡ Thomasine

* Pensions, Hen. VIII. Miscell. Books, Off. Aug. vol. 245, n. 128. Appendix, No. XIX.

† E Reg. Fuller. 345.

‡ Not so much as a specimen of too frequent incorrectness, as of warning to those who perpetuate such by contenti g themselves with simply copying the statements of others, I would mention the fate which this lady's name

Huntingdon, £4; Katerine Pophame, £4; Anne Maundefeld, £4; Johanna Bavington, £4; Elisabeth Grene, £4; and Agnes Mathewe, £4. And to William Maudesley, clerk, £4.*

John Andersey, the last Incumbent of the Chantry of Newton Placye, figures in the record as having an annual pension of 100s.; and Richard Verser, the last Incumbent of the Chantry of Blessed Mary in the Church of Northepetherton, as the receiver of an annual pension of the same amount.†

By a singular piece of good fortune, of which the history of no other Religious House that I know of can furnish an instance, we have thus had preserved for us the names of the first as well as the last Prioress and Sisters of Buckland —the former when brought together at the beginning from various Houses into one Conventual home; the latter both as they were at the evil day of their dispersion, and also when death had been busy among them after an interval of sixteen years. What became of these last during that interval, whither they betook themselves, and how they succeeded in bearing up under the anguish that memories of the happy past would scarcely fail to create, we know not. Nor can we gain more insight into their after fortunes. The notice just presented to the reader is the

has undergone. The scribe who copied the list for Willis wrote it "Hylbere," and thus it appears in the "History of Abbeys" (Vol. ii, p, 196.) Collinson has of course reiterated the assertion. The name in the original record is "Hille;" and the syllable added by the copyists is the first word of the "per annum iiiili" that follows! Many readers may consider this a matter of the most trifling consequence. It is an instance, however, which admits of too constant parallel; and the negligence which has given continuance to such errors is unworthy of the students of a branch of learning in which false statements are specially mischievous, and accuracy and exactness are of indispensible necessity.

* Card. Pole's Pension-book, f. xxix. Appendix No. XX.

† *Ib.*, fol. xxx.

concluding glimpse that we get of them. In subsequent records they appear no more.

We must now turn to the real cause of the hard measure and undeserved brutality so mercilessly dealt out to these innocent sufferers. The main temptation to the aggression against their peace was the lands with which ancient liberality had endowed them, and after which an unscrupulous tyrant and greedy courtiers thirsted, even to the robbery, or if need were, the murder of their lawful owners.

To illustrate the earliest condition of the property after it had been thus wrested from them and taken into the king's hands, I will furnish the reader with a brief but carefully made Abstract of the Return called the Ministers' Accounts, for the year ending at Michaelmas, 1539, the first, it will be remembered, subsequent to the Dissolution. The original record seems at the first aspect little less than obscurity itself, but this is to a great extent removed by adopting the tabular form in which it is here presented. The amounts have yet to be charged with sundry deductions in the shape of stipends, repairs, &c., as will be seen by comparison with the "Valor," where many of them are already given.

THE LATE PRIORY OF BUCKELOND.

The Accounts of all and singular the Bailiffs, Farmers, &c., from Michaelmas, 1538, to Michaelmas, 1539.

The Account of Edward Rogers, Esq., Farmer.

Buckelond.

Farm of the site of the late Priory, including gardens, orchards, and other lands, called xiiij Acres, Newlonde, Purches,

Staplehays, Ryden, Robbys, Harys, Horlocke Mede, Hurt Mede, Longe Mede, vj Acres Mede, with their appurtenances, in the occupation of the said Farmer .. .. .. viij^{li} ij^{s} iiij^{d}

Farm of the Rectory .. .. xx^{s}

Sum total, ix^{li} ij^{s} iiij^{d}

THE ACCOUNT OF ALEXANDER POPPEHAM, BAILIFF.

HELE.

Assessed Rents .. .. xvj^{li} xiiij^{d} ob.

Farm of the Manor .. .. vj^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d}

Perquisites of the Courts .. iiij^{li} iiij^{s} viij^{d}

Sum total, xxvj^{li} xij^{s} vj^{d} ob.

THE ACCOUNT OF ALEXANDER POPPEHAM, COLLECTOR.

WELLYS.

Assessed Rent of one Burgage .. xx^{s}

Ditto of one Burgage .. .. xx^{s}

Ditto of one Burgage .. .. ix^{s}

Sum total, xlix^{s}

GOTTON.

Assessed Rent of one Messuage .. xl^{s}

Ditto of one Tenement .. .. xl^{s}

Ditto of one Tenement .. .. v^{s}

Ditto of one Cottage .. .. vj^{s}

Sum total, iiij^{li} xj^{s}

BRYMTONRAFFE.

Rents of Messuage and Mill, with their appurtenances .. .. xxiiij^{s} viij^{d}

CADECOTE.

Value of a tenement, late in the tenure of John Edwardes, ij^{s} iiij^{d}; but there were no returns, as it was not let.

HOREWOD.

Chief Rent of a Mill .. .. xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

AYSSHE AND TORNFAWCON.

Rents of lands, tenements, and cottages xlvij^{s} vj^{d}

BRODEWODWIGER.

Rents of free Tenants .. .. x^{s} x^{d}

Assessed Rents .. .. lxiiij^{s} v^{d} ob.

TOLLER.

Farm of the Preceptory with Rectory xxij^{li}

S. JOHN OF JERUSALEM.

Annual Rent received from the Prior, by ancient custom, but this year it was unpaid .. .. xxij^{li}

PERQUISITES OF THE COURTS. .. ix^{li}

Sum total, lxviij^{li} ix^{d} ob.

Remaining due, xxij^{li}

THE ACCOUNT OF THOMAS JESOPH, FARMER.

CHILCOMBE.

Farm of the Manor .. .. xiiij^{li}

THE ACCOUNT OF RICHARD WAKEHAM, BAILIFF.

NORTHPEDERTON.

Rents of free Tenants .. .. xxxiiij^{s} viij^{d}

Assessed Rents .. .. xix^{li} ij^{d}

Perquisites of the Courts .. xxx^{li} vj^{s} x^{d}

Sum total, li^{li} xx^{d}

THE ACCOUNT OF ALEXANDER POPPEHAM, BY JAWCUS AYSSHELEY, HIS DEPUTY.

PRYMSLEY.

Rents of free Tenants	.. ..	xj^{s} iiij^{d}
Assessed Rents	.. ..	xiij^{li} xij^{s} vj^{d}
Sum total,		xiiij^{li} iij^{s} x^{d}

THE ACCOUNT OF ALEXANDER POPPEHAM, FARMER.

KYLMERSTON.

Farm of the Manor with Rectory	..	xviij^{li} xv^{s}

THE ACCOUNT OF JOAN ATWYLL, FARMER.

BROMFYLD.

Farm of the Rectory	.. ..	viij^{li} v^{s}

THE ACCOUNT OF JOHN WORTH, GENT., BY ALEXANDER POPPEHAM, HIS DEPUTY.

NORTHEPEDERTON.

Farm of the Rectory	.. ..	xxvj^{li} x^{d}
Pension from the Vicarage	..	liij^{s} iiij^{d}

PAWLETT.

Pension from the Vicarage, this year unpaid	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
Sum total,	xxix^{li} vij^{s} vj^{d}
Remaining due,	xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

THE ACCOUNT OF MARMADUKE POPPEHAM, RECEIVER.

KYRTON.

Farm of the Rectory	.. ..	xxix^{li}
Rent of three cottages, parcel of the aforesaid	.. ..	xxij^{s}

DONYNGTON.

Farm of Tithe, &c.	.. ..	x^{li}
Sum total,		xl^{li} ij^{s}

THE ACCOUNT OF ALEXANDER POPPEHAM, COLLECTOR.

RAYNEHAM, in Berks.

Pension from the Preceptory, this year unpaid c^{s}

SWYNFILD, in Kent.

Pension from the Preceptory, this year unpaid xl^{s}

KERBROKE, in Northamptonshire.

Pension from the Preceptory, this year unpaid xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

TEMPLECOME, in Somerset.

Pension from the Preceptory, this year unpaid xxvj^{s} viij^{d}

TOLAND, in Somerset.

Pension from the Rectory .. .. ij^{s}

BEKYNGTON, in Somerset.

Pension from the Rectory .. .. xx^{s}

SHERIFF OF HEREFORD.

A certain Alms of the King, this year unpaid vj^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d}

Sum total, xvj^{li} xviij^{s} xj^{d}
Remaining due, xv^{li} xvj^{s} xj^{d} *

On a comparison of these accounts with those already given in the "Valor," it will be found that very little difference exists between them. Indeed, in more than half the cases, the values given are identical.

Such was the spoil. We have now, in conclusion, to see how it was disposed of, and who were the richer for the transfer.

The first notice that we have of the use to which the revenues were devoted may be considered the least objectionable of the whole. On the 27th of February, 1540, the king granted to John Worth, Esq., an annual pension of £24

* Ministers' Accounts, 30-31 Hen. VIII. Off. Aug.

and 10d., issuing from the manor of Bucklond, formerly belonging to the late Monastery of Bucklond, just now dissolved. We have already seen this John Worth in the character of Receiver of rents and pensions from Northepederton and Pawlett.*

Some time elapsed before the bulk of the property was disposed of. A "Request to purchase" the site of the Priory and the Rectory and tithes of Mighelchurch was submitted to the king, signed "W. Essex," and bearing date the 11th of March, 35th Hen. VIII., 1544. To the enumeration of the various portions of the domain, which will presently be detailed in the grant, the Auditor, Mathew Colthirste, whose duty it was to examine the terms of the Request, and to report upon any charges on the estates, appended the following note.† — "What coñoditie the ffermer hereof taketh aboue the annual Rent I knowe not. It'm the kynges grace is charged wth cvj^s^ viij^d^ for the stipend of a preeste serving Cure at Sancte Michaell Chapell being w^t^in a q^r^ter of a myle of the seid scite. where they wedde & crisen & burith in the Churche Yarde of the seid late Pryory. & so is like to be charged. vnlesse the seid Chapell be annexed to the Chapell of a Coñoundry of Sancte Johnes adionyng to the seid scite: there is no more landes w^t^in ij myles perteynyng to the seid Priory. the Comaundry of Bucklande parcell of Sancte Jones adioneth to the same. P'Mathiam Coltehirste Audit'." In the margin we are told that "The superfluous howsys there where sold to the seid ffermer [Edward Rogers] at the tyme of the dissolucyon of the howse." The woods on the estate are reported as follows:—Roden Coppies, 3

* Cartæ Miscell. in Off. Rec. vol. 7, n. 28.

† Part. for Grants, Off. Aug. The letters printed in italics are represented in the original by marks of contraction.

acres; Wynsell Wood, 7 acres; and hedgerows, 2 acres; with sundry reservations for the farmer of the demesne.*

This was shortly afterwards followed by the instrument which the framers had in view. On the 30th of June, 1544, the king granted to his beloved and faithful cousin and councillor, William, Earl of Essex, and his beloved James Rokeby, Esq., William Ibgrabe, Esq., and John Cokke, Edward Rogers, and Edward Bury, Esqrs., and their heirs, &c., for the sum of £1049 11s. 2½d. of lawful money of England, the whole House and Site of the late monastery of Buckland, in the County of Somerset, and all its lands, meadows, pastures and hereditaments, called or known by the name or names of Fouretene Acres, Newland, Purches, Stapleheys, Riden, Lobbis, Harys, Horlocke Meade, Hurte Meade, Longe Meade, and Sixe Acres Meade, with all their appurtenances, then or lately in the tenure or occupation of the said Edward Rogers or his assigns, in Bucklande, or Buckland Sororum, parcel of the possessions of the said late monastery, and formerly in the hands, culture, and proper occupation of the late Prioress of the late monastery of Buckland at the time of the Dissolution. Also all those woods and lands called Riden Coppes and Wynsell Wood, containing by estimation ten acres, with all their appurtenances in Buckland. Also all the houses, buildings, granaries, stables, dovecots, gardens, orchards, and lands whatsoever, within the site, sept, boundary, circuit, and precinct of the said late monastery, and all and singular commons, ways, paths, easements, advantages, profits, and emoluments whatsoever in Buckland, Mighelchurche, and Northpetherton, in any manner appertaining. Also all the Rectory, and church, or chapel of Mighelchurche, with its appurtenances; and all and every kind of tithes of green crops, corn, grain, hay, wool, lambs,

* Part. for Grants, Off. Aug.

and other small tithes, and oblations, revenues, and profits whatsoever in Mighelchurche and Buckland, in any way appertaining to the said Rectory, and Church or Chapel of Mighelchurche. All these were to be holden as fully and entirely as the last Prioress had them. The aforesaid site, and lands, and properties of various descriptions were stated to be of the clear annual value of seventy-five shillings and eightpence. They were to be held of the king in chief, by the service of a twentieth part of one knight's fee, and an annual rent of seven shillings and sevenpence sterling, to be paid at Michaelmas. The grantees were also to pay one hundred and six shillings and eightpence a year for the stipend of a curate to celebrate Divine service in the Church or Chapel of Mighelchurche. Besides all this the grant conveyed enormous possessions in the parishes of S. Botolph, Aldersgate, S. John, Clerkenwell, and S. Sepulchre, in the city of London and county of Middlesex, and in the counties of York, Northumberland, Stafford, Hertford, Wilts, and Essex. The instrument was dated at Westminster, on the day and year above mentioned.*

On the 13th of October, 1544, in consideration of the sum of £754 17s. 8d., of good and lawful English money, the king granted to William Porteman, Sergeant-at-Law, and Alexander Popham, Esq., and their heirs, &c., all the manor of Northpetherton, or Northpederton, with all and singular its rights and appurtenances, formerly belonging to, and parcel of the possessions of, the late dissolved Priory of Bukland, and all the site, demesne lands, meadows, pastures, &c., of the said manor. Also the wood commonly called Barwoode, in Northpetherton, containing by estima-

* Orig. 36 Hen. VIII. p. 1. rot. xxxviii. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 2, mm. 34 (13), 33 (14), 32 (15), 31 (16). Leland, Itin., vol. II., p. 68. Appendix, No. XXI.

tion eight acres. Also all the messuages, lands, tenements, meadows and pastures, with their appurtenances, in Gotton, in the parish of Westemonketon, formerly belonging to the late Priory, in the tenure or occupation of Richard Warr, Esq., Robert Warr, William Hare, and Weltheane Merkes, widow. Also all the messuages, tofts, houses, buildings, granaries, stables, dovecots, mills, gardens, orchards, meadows, woods, waters, marshes, vivaries, weirs, fisheries, commons, wastes, &c., &c., with all knights' fees and other rights, in Northpetherton, Michelchurche, Bromfeld, Brympton Raiff, Wollavyngton, Mirelinche, and Gotton—as fully and entirely as Katerina Bourgchier the last Prioress had held the said property. Also messuages, &c., in Ayshe and Thornfaucon, lately belonging to the said Priory. Also a tenement and messuage in the parish of Bromefeld, formerly belonging to the lately dissolved Priory of Taunton, in the occupation of one Richard Raynald. Also another tenement and messuage in Bromefeld, in the tenure and occupation of one John Pylman, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also lands in Kyngeshyll, in the parish of Spaxton, also formerly belonging to the late dissolved Priory of Taunton. Also all the manor, farm, and grange of Claveshey, with its appurtenances, in the parishes of Northepetherton and Bromefelde; and the capital messuage, house, site, and capital mansion of Claveshey, formerly belonging to the lately dissolved monastery of Athelney; and the wood commonly called Claveshey Wood, containing by estimation ten acres, and the wood called Holesey Wood, containing by estimation five acres, in Northepetherton aforesaid, formerly belonging to the late monastery of Athelney. Also messuages, &c., at Durlegh, Gotchirst, Dunwer, &c., in the parishes of Bridgewater and Northepetherton, formerly belonging to the

Priory of S. John, at Bridgewater. The property formerly belonging to the Priory of Buckland in Buckland, Northpetherton, Michelchurch and Bromefeld, was estimated at the clear annual value of £23 17s. 4d.; in Ayshe and Thornefaucon, of 47s. 6d.; at Bromefeld and Spaxton, of 41s. 8d.; at Claveshey, of £9; at Durleigh and Gotehirst, of 33s.; and at Dunwer, of 14s. 6d. The grantees were to pay the following annual rents:—for the property at Buckland, 38s.; for Gotton, 9s. 1½d.; for Ayshe and Thornfaucon, 4s. 9d.; for Bromefeld and Spaxton, 4s. 2d.; for Claveshey, 18s.; for Durlegh and Gotehirst, 3s. 4d.; and for Dunwer, 17½d. Also to Richard Wakeham, bailiff of the manor of Northepetherton, an annual fee of 20s.; and to John Walton, steward of the court of the said manor, 13s. 4d. All advowsons of churches, and spiritual emoluments and profits were reserved to the king. The Request to purchase was dated the 6th of July, 1544; and the grant at Westminster, the 13th of October, in the same year.*

We have already seen the disposal of the Priory, and have now to notice that of the Preceptory, which was not long delayed. The Request to purchase is dated the 13th of December, 1544. Ralph Lambe, the deputy of Matthew Coltehirste, Auditor, annexed to the enumeration of the lands thus solicited the significant and not unusual declaration, "I have made the *par*ticlers hereof to no other *per*son, nor I knowe any other *per*son desyrus to bye the *pre*mysses."† This was doubtless intended to assure the royal salesman that the bargain was the best that could be effected under the circumstances. On the 16th of

* Part. for Grants, Off. Aug. Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 3, rot. xii. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 8, mm. 23, 24, 25, 26. Add. MS. B.M. 6366, pp. 28 b, 29.

† Part. for Grants, Off. Aug. Appendix, No. XXII.

February, 1545, the purchase was completed. The king then granted to Alexander Popham, Esquire, and William Halley, gentleman, and their heirs, &c., in consideration of the sum of £999 16s. 7d. of lawful English money, all the manor and the late Preceptory of Bucklond Pryours, in the County of Somerset, together with the manor of Halse, and all other manors, lands, tenements, meadows, pastures, rents, reversions, services, and other hereditaments whatsoever, appertaining to the said late Preceptory, with all its other members and appurtenances, then or lately in the tenure, discharge or occupation of the aforesaid William Halley. Also the Rectory and impropriated Church of Halse, and all and singular other Rectories and impropriated Churches appertaining to the said Preceptory ; and all glebes, tithes, pensions, portions, oblations, revenues, fruits, advantages, profits, emoluments, and hereditaments whatsoever, as well spiritual as temporal, of every kind. Also the advowsons and rights of the Rectories aforesaid. Also the two manors of Bodmescombe and Cove, in the County of Devon, with all their appurtenances. Also the manor of Cleyanger, in the County of Devon. Also the advowsons, donations, presentations, &c., of the Church and Rectory of Hethefeld, and of the Church and Rectory of Halse, in the County of Somerset ; and of the Rectories and Churches of Brendon and Cleyanger in the County of Devon. Also the wood and grove called Wynsell Grove, containing by estimation four acres; and the wood and grove called Peryfeld Grove, containing by estimation four acres ; and the grove called Bowyers Grove, containing by estimation twelve acres ; and the wood and waste called Bodmescombe Wood, containing by estimation thirty-five acres; and twelve acres, sixteen acres, and twenty-seven acres, called Uprynges of Wood ; all parcels of the late Preceptory of

Bucklond Pryours. Also a messuage, &c., in the parishes of Gotehurste and Charlinche, formerly belonging to the late Priory or Hospital of S. John of Brydgewater. Also the demesne and manor of Thurlebare; the messuage, &c., called Playstrete, in the parish of Staple; a rent of twenty-four shillings and ninepence half-penny, called The Thurchetts,* issuing from certain lands and tenements in Thurlebare; a close called The Pryours Wood, in Thurlebare, of thirteen acres; and lands in Westhatche and Upphatche; all formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. Also the manor and demesne of Tobrydge, with all its rights, &c., in the parish of S. James by Taunton, and formerly belonging to the late Priory of Taunton. All these were to be holden by the grantees as fully, entirely, and amply, as by their former possessors. The manor and late Preceptory of Buckelond Priours together with the manor of Halse, &c., were of the clear annual value of £31 19s. 2d, without deducting the reserved tithe; the vicarage of the clear annual value of £5 19s. 5½d., without deducting the reserved tithe; and the Rectory of Hethefeld, £9 4s., without deducting tithe. The Preceptory of Bucklond Pryours and Halse were to be held by the grantees of the king in capite, by military service, to wit, the twentieth part of one knight's fee, and by the following annual rents, to be paid at Michaelmas :—for Buckelond and Halse, £3 3s. 11d.; for Tobrydge, 10s. 7d.; for Cleanger, &c., 10s. 2d.; and for Thurlebare, 14s. 5d. The grant was dated at Westminster, the 16th of February, 36 Hen. VIII., 1544-5.†

* Probably intended for Churchetts, or Churchessets, a payment to the Church of corn as the First-fruits of harvest. See, for another instance, the author's History of Taunton Priory, page 119.

† Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 8, rot. xvii. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 26, mm. (6) 44, (7) 43, (8) 42. Add. MS. B.M. 6366, p. 116. Appendix, No. XXIII.

The more distant portions of the property were disposed of in a similar manner.

On the 18th of July, 1543, in consideration of the sum of £1451 2s. 9¼d., the King granted to Sir John Horsey the manor of Prymsley, or Promsley,* in the county of Dorset, with all its rights, members, and appurtenances, formerly belonging to the late dissolved Priory of Buckelande, in the County of Somerset. Together with this were granted lands at Thorneforde, Overcompton, and Nethercompton, and at Pynford, in the parish of Shirborne. Prymsley was estimated at the clear annual value of £14 17s. 2d. The lands were to be held of the King in capite, and the annual rent for Prymsley was to be the sum of 29s. 9d., payable at Michaelmas. The Request to purchase was dated the 5th of June, 1543; and the grant at Terlynge, on the day above mentioned.†

One month after a Request to purchase, dated the 6th of July, 1543, the King granted to Richard Parker, of Tawstok, in the County of Devon, gentleman, for the sum of £1436 7s. 10d., the Rectories of Bradford and Hilfarauncе, in the County of Somerset, formerly belonging to the Priory of Barliche; the demesne and manor of Pyxton, and Nyneheđ, formerly belonging to the Priory of Taunton; the manor of Moremalcherbe and Brodewodwiger, in Devon, formerly belonging to and parcel of the late Priory of Mynchyngbukland, in the County of Somerset; the Rectory of Northemolton, and lands at Lynkcombe, Hilfarcombe, and Wykelangforde, &c., formerly belonging to the late Monasteries of Dunkeswell and Frythelstoke, in the County of Devon. Bradford and Hilfarauncе were

* See page 13 for the original gift.

† Part. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 2, rot. iiii. Pat. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 6, mm. (1) 38, (2) 37.

of the clear annual value of £16 4s. 6d.; Pyxton and Nynehead, £15 15s.; Lynkcombe and Hilfarcombe £12 7s. 0½d.; Northemolton, of £16; and Moremalcherbe, £3 15s. 3½d. The advowsons were reserved. The property was to be held in capite, by the service of a twentieth part of one knight's fee, and the following annual rents to be paid at Michaelmas:—for Bradford and Hilfarannce, 32s. 5½d.; for Pyxton, &c., 31s. 6d.; for Lynkcombe, 24s. 8½d.; for Northmolton, 32s.; and for Moremalcherbe, 7s. 6½d. Besides these charges, the grantees were to pay annually to the Curate of Hylfarannce a stipend of 26s. 8d.; for procurations and synodals for the Church of Bradford, the sum of 12s. 5½d.; to the bailiff of Lynkcombe, his fee of 13s. 4d.; to the Vicar of Northemolton, £17 6s. 8d.; and, lastly, the sum of 66s. 8d., for the said Rectory of Northemolton, to the Dean and Chapter of the Cathedral Church of S. Peter at Exon. The grant was dated at Rayne, the 6th of August, 1543.*

On the 11th of June, 1544, the King granted to Sir John Fulford, Humfrey Colles, Esquire, and their heirs, certain tenements with their appurtenances in the parish of Bromfeld, in the tenure or occupation of Robert Stalyche, John Harle, and John Hewett, formerly belonging to the late Priory of Bukeland. Also a horse mill, and a moiety of a close called Newe Close, and five acres of meadow with their appurtenances in Rysemore, in the County of Somerset, in the occupation of John Grene and Johanna his wife, and formerly belonging to the late Hospital of S. John of Bridgewater. Lands in Devon, formerly belonging to the late monasteries of Canonleighe,

* Part. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 1, rot. cxvii. Pat. 35 Hen. VIII., p. 5, mm. 12 (26), 11 (27), 10 (28). Add. MS. B.M. 6365, p. 297.

S. Nicholas at Exon, and Buckfast, in that County, and of Mountague and Clyve, in the County of Somerset, accompanied the aforesaid, and the purchase money amounted to the sum of £1199 18s. 3d. The property belonging to Bukeland was estimated at the clear yearly value of 24s. 4d., the tithe not deducted; and that belonging to S. John of Bridgewater to £4, the tithe also not deducted. The grantees in capite were to pay, at Michaelmas, for the Bridgwater property the yearly rent of 8s.; and for that at Bromfeld 2s. 5½d. The Request to purchase was dated the 12th of March, 1544; and the grant at Westminster on the day aforesaid.*

On the 26th of July, 1544, (the Request is dated the 10th of the same month,) the King granted to Roger Taverner and Robert Taverner, gentlemen, two tenements and a mill called Elsam Myll, and certain lands and tenements called Stone Londes, situated in Brompton Raffe, in the County of Somerset, with all their appurtenances, in the tenure or occupation of John Edwardes, and formerly belonging to the late dissolved Priory of Buckelonde, in the said county. The annual value was 24s. 8d.; and it was to be held by a yearly payment, at Michaelmas, under the name of tithe, of 2s. 6d. This was accompanied by large estates in London and the Counties of Northampton, Lincoln, and York, and the amount paid for the whole was £546 17s. 6d. The grant was dated, witness Katharine Queen of England, at Westminster, on the day and year aforesaid.†

On the 8th of November, 1544, a year which witnessed such wholesale changes in the possession of Church property, the King, in consideration of the sum of £269

* Part. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 4, rot. clxvi. Pat. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 12, mm. 5 (35), 4 (36), 3 (37).

† Part. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 5, rot. iii.

13s. 4d., granted to William Bisshoppe, of Bredy, in the County of Dorset, yeoman, and to John Hide, of London, gentleman, and their heirs, the manor of Chylcombe, with all its rights, in the County of Dorset, lately belonging to the Priory of Buklande.* Also other lands in Southampton, &c. The clear annual value of Chylcombe was reckoned at £14. It was to be held of the King in chief, by payment of a yearly rent of 28s. at Michaelmas. The Request to purchase was dated the 8th of November, 1544; and the grant at Westminster, on the day above mentioned.†

On the 13th of the same month they obtained license, we are told, to alienate a moiety to Thomas Martin, of Longbridy, and his heirs. William Bisshoppe did not long enjoy his new estate. He died on the 31st of May, 1545, leaving the ominous property to his son John, who succeeded his father at the age of seventeen years, and died four years after, 3 Edward VI!‡

Nine months elapsed before other changes were effected. On the 4th of July, 1545, the King granted to William Hodgys, of Myddelchynnock, in the County of Somerset, and to William Hodgys, of London, son of the former, and their heirs, for the sum of £695 0s. 5d., the site of the Monastery of the Grey Friars of Ivellchester, twenty-nine messuages in the town of Bridgewater, lately belonging to the Hospital of S. John in that town; and three messuages or burgages in the city of Wells,‖ in the separate tenure or occupation of Thomas Bodye, Cristofer Cooke, and Leticia Trystes. To these were added other lands in the counties of Dorset and Derby.

* See page 13 for the original gift.

† Part. for Grants, in Off. Aug Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 4, rot. ciiiixxi.

‡ *Hutchins's Dorsetshire*, 2nd Ed., vol. II, p. 293.

‖ See page 19 for the original gift.

The property in Ivellchester was reckoned of the clear annual value of 13s. 4d.; that in Bridgewater, of £21 3s. 4d.; and that at Wells, of 49s. It was to be held by fealty, in free soccage, and not in capite. The Request to purchase was dated the 24th of February, 1545; and the grant as above, at Westminster.*

The spoil was not yet entirely disposed of. For the sum of £1393 8s. 10d., the King granted to John Pope, gentleman, and his heirs, the manor of Kyrton in Holland, in the County of Lincoln, lately belonging to Buckland Priory, with all its houses, lands, and other appurtenances, of the clear yearly value of 22s. An enormous tract in the Counties of Oxford, Gloucester, York, Wilts, Salop, Middlesex, Surrey, and Warwick accompanied the aforesaid property. Kyrton was to be held in free soccage, by fealty only, and not in capite. The Request to purchase was dated the — day of July, 1545, and the grant at Westminster, the 3rd of October, 1545.†

By this time, as the reader will have perceived, not much remained either to excite or to gratify the lust of acquisition. My task, accordingly, is all but completed. Of course I cannot pursue further the history of each estate, which has now ceased to be of the interest that it hitherto possessed. The exception, however, which I have made in previous instances, it will not be improper to repeat in this.

So early as four years after the original grant to William Halley, in whose occupation, it will be remembered, the property even then was, King Edward VI., in consideration of the sum of £6 13s. 4d., authorized him to alienate to John Cuffe and John Tynbery, and their heirs,

* Part. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 6, rot. xxx.

† Part. for Grants, in Off. Aug. Orig. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3. rot. xvi. Pat. 37 Hen. VIII., p. 3, mm. 13 (33), 12 (34), 11 (35), 10 (36), 9 (37).

his capital messuage called Buckelond Priors, with its appurtenances, and two gardens, two orchards, two hundred acres of arable land, thirty-six acres of meadow, seventy-three acres of pasture, and two acres of land covered with water—the Ponds, I presume, to which I drew attention in the beginning of the History—with their appurtenances, in Buckland Priors and Coglod, in the County of Somerset, holden of the King in capite. Also to the aforesaid John Cuffe and John Tynbery special license was given to appropriate the same. The grant was dated at Westminster, the 13th of February, 1548.*

On the 4th of July, 1608, Edward Rogers, son of George Rogers, of Canington, sold to Sir Henry Hawley the site, circuit and precinct of the late Monastery or Priory of Buckland, with its appurtenances.† The manor, according to Collinson,‡ was subsequently sold by the Hawleys to John Baker, Esq., Receiver General of the land-tax in the County of Somerset, whose son Christopher sold it to George Parker, of Boringdon, in the County of Devon, Esq., and his decendant, John Parker, Baron Boringdon, to the family of the present possessor.

Thus have we traced the history of this interesting spot, from its original selection for the abode of a Religious Community, through ages of dutiful attention to the grand objects for the advancement of which it was so chosen, of varying fortune and frequent struggle, down to its violent alienation from those objects and its compulsory separation from the Society with which they were con-

* Orig. 2 Edw. VI. p. 1. rot. xlv. Pat. 2 Edw. VI., p. 1, m. (11) 35. Add. MS. B.M. 6367, f. 30. Appendix, No. XXIV.

† Trin. Rec. 9 Jac. i. rot. cxii.

‡ Vol. III. p. 99.

nected. The present appearance of the place gives very little indication of the former of these associations. Various fragments, indeed, of an older structure, as plinth mouldings and similar remains, are noticeable in the more ancient of the farm buildings, and there still exists a barn with some buttresses of the late Perpendicular period. Nothing, however, that I noticed, connected with the structure itself, is necessarily earlier than the sixteenth century, and accordingly all that is now visible may have formed no part of the conventual edifices, but have been the work of the first intruders to accommodate the place to their own purposes. Apart from the Ponds, already described, there are nevertheless a few relics of monastic days, which I have had the happiness of bringing into notice. This has not been effected without some difficulty. On the occasion of repeated visits I had made many and strict enquiries of the labourers employed about the spot, and of the neighbours in general, as to the discovery or existence of any ancient remains either of the buildings and their ornamental accessories, or of the instruments, utensils, or other evidences of the religious or domestic life of the olden possessors. For a long time I could obtain for my queries nothing but an uniform negative. At length one of a large body of farm servants set me upon the track of possessing myself of the rings of which mention has already been made, and eventually succeeded in recollecting that several large gravestones with illegible inscriptions had been dug up many years before—it was in 1836—from three to four feet under the surface of what is now the kitchen garden of the mansion. These after a long search I had at length the gratification of recovering. It is clear, from several previous notices,*

* See pp. 11, 27, 37, 74.

that there were two Churches appropriated to the adjacent Societies, the greater belonging to the Prioress and her Sisters, and dedicated to the Blessed Virgin and S. Nicholas, the less in the possession of the Preceptor and his Brethren. In which of them the remains thus brought to light originally found a place, or whether in the churchyard, also previously mentioned, it is now of course impossible to determine. The Priory Church, however, as I hinted in a former page, would appear to have been their most probable locality. The most ancient was a portion of an incised slab, *(see the figure)* with a few Lombardic characters all but obliterated :—

* : ℞ · ℘ * * * * * * * ℭ℔ : *

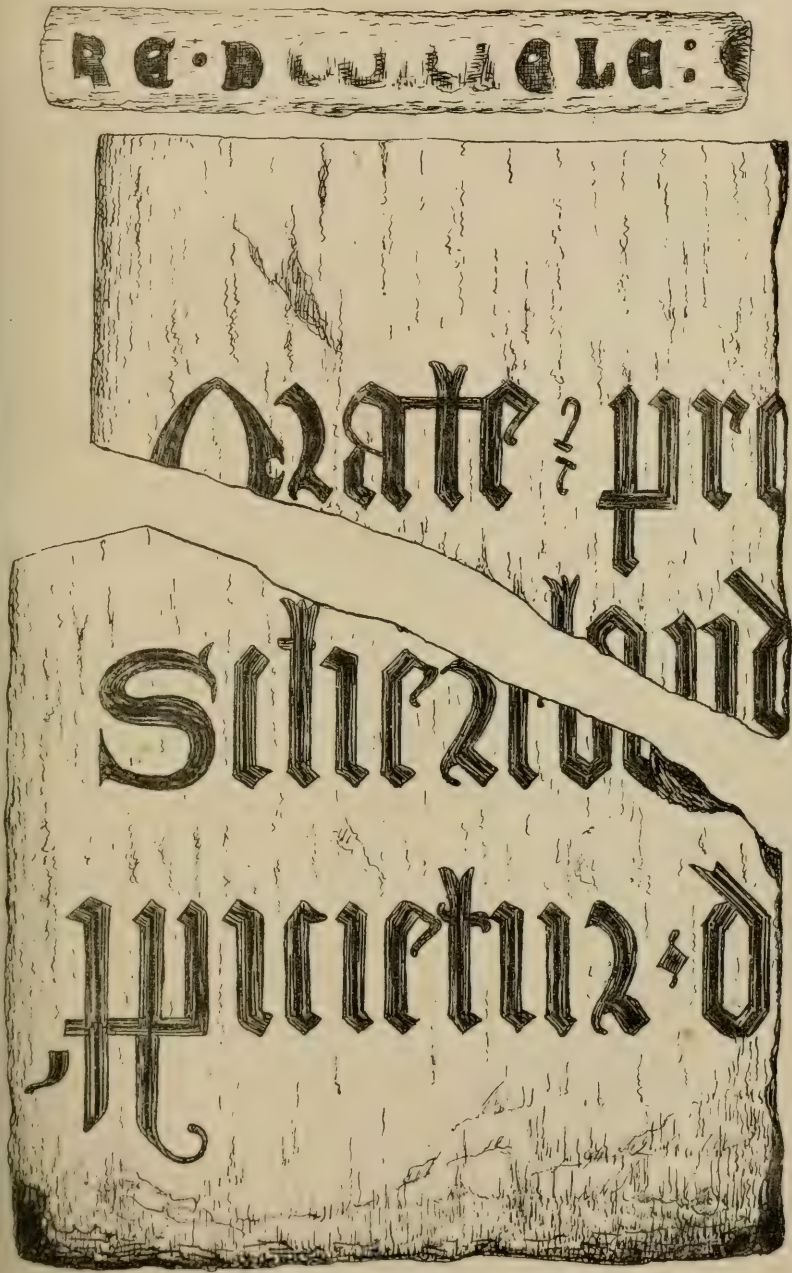
The next was a fragment of the fifteenth century, commencing with Orate pro, immediately after which came the envious fracture that prevented all identification of it with the old worthy whose memory it was intended to immortalize. *(See the figure.)* Parts of four letters of a second line remained—lanꝺ—no doubt the last syllable of the name of the House—thus :—

Orate pro
lanꝺ

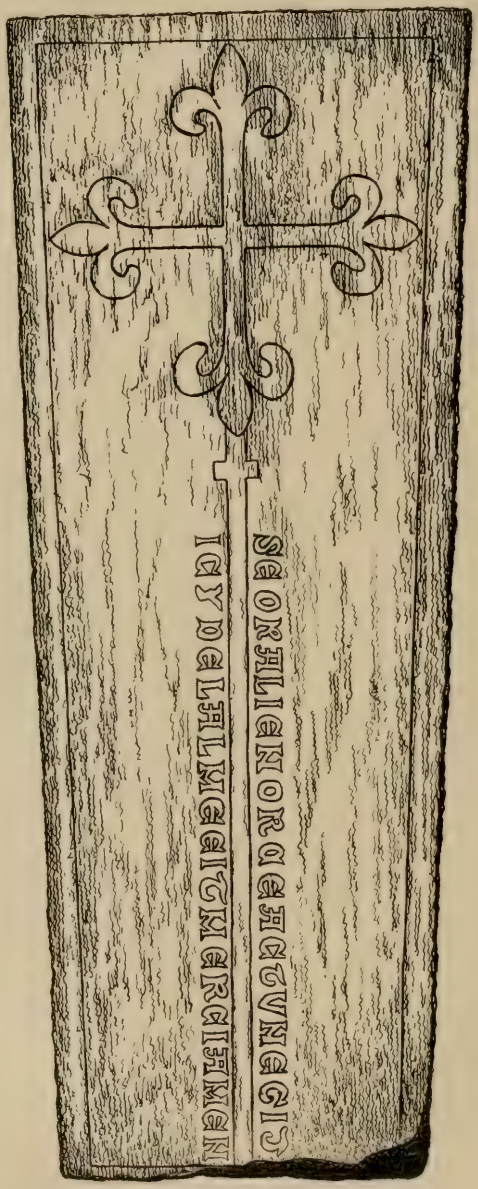
A third fragment, of the same period as the last, read

Scherebo
ppicietur ꝺ

The former line had its two concluding letters imperfect, but represented, perhaps, a part of the word "Schereborn;" the latter was evidently a portion of the well known formula. *(See the figure.)* There was yet another memorial, and that of a most touching character. It was the only one that was found entire, and had accordingly been taken some care of



T.H. del. et lith. 1861. FROM MYNCHIN BUCKLAND PRIORY.



FROM MYNCHIN BUCKLAND PRIORY.

Tho. Hugo del. & lith. 1861.

and placed in a cellar. Nothing, however, was known of it, except that it had upon it a number of old letters which nobody could read. I duly obtained leave, most courteously accorded by the tenant of the mansion, to examine the mysterious relic; and, after transporting a range of brewing utensils which were marshalled upon it, discovered at length the object of my search covered with the dust that many years during which it had been untouched had collected on its surface. This was soon removed, and I was then most amply rewarded for my labour. The object brought to light was a noble incised slab, *(see the figure)* about seven feet long by four feet broad, of thirteenth or early fourteenth century work, in commemoration, as I conjecture, of a deceased Prioress. A very beautiful Lombardic cross occupied the centre, on either side of which was one line of the inscription, almost as sharply defined as when it left the hand of the old workman:—

SEDRALIENDRDEACTUNEGIT
IEYDCLAIMCEITMERCIAMEN

"Sister Alienor of Actune lies here, on whose soul God have mercy. Amen." The epitaph is slightly abbreviated from the more usual formula, but the letters are remarkably fine, and the whole is of a truly artistic character. This, however, we may consider its least interesting peculiarity. It is eloquent of something higher than even Christian art, how noble and beautiful soever. Who Sister Alienor of Actune was, although this is not forgotten elsewhere, is now, I fear, beyond the power of the genealogist to discover for us and declare. But this venerable gravestone, disinterred from its long night of centuries, has once more made the world acquainted with her name, and will now, doubtless, through her unworthy remembrancer, do so to a

far wider extent than it ever transmitted it before. Such publicity will not now interfere with her repose. And that which has at length furnished so graceful a memorial of her is surpassingly worthy of reverent remark. It is a silent and yet speaking witness of one who "did what she could" in her ancient day; who, perhaps with much to discourage and distress her, laboured and fainted not in her high resolve; and at length, when human toils were over, entered into that rest for which, it cannot be too much to imagine, her life in this sacred home very eminently tended to prepare her. Nor shall I, as I hope, be considered fanciful in adding, that it may symbolize also the System with which it was connected—buried, past, and gone—yet preservative, and indeed full, of beautiful forms and holy thoughts for those who will reverently examine it and wipe away the dust that has settled upon its surface, and trace, as they so well may, its distinguishing lines, telling at once of the Cross which was its centre, the union which was its strength, and the hope of final mercy which was alike its mainstay and its reward.

THOMAS HUGO.

APPENDIX.

No. I.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

. . . . ANDE. Wms de Erlegh p' salute a'ie Henrici Regis et Ael . . . . . sui R' Henric' & alioru' filioru' & filiaru' suaru' . . . . . conc' eis tot^{a}m de Buckland & ecc' de Pereton' . . . . . plantand' & ordinand' p' manu' Tho: Archep'i Avun . . . . . religionem apud Buckland &^{c} cu' usu eccl'aru & . . . . . .

[MS. in Off. Armor, L. 17, f. 141.]

Anno d'nice incarnationis 1434 hunc libru' taliter co'pilauit frater Joh'es Stillingflete de no'ib' fundator' hospitalis s'ci Joh'is Jerusalem in Anglia &c.

[MS. in Off. Armor, L. 17, f. 153.]

BUKLAND. Will'ms de Erlegh p' salute ai'e Regis Henrici & Alienore Regine & filij sui Regis Henrici & alior' filior' & filiar' suar' p' remedio ai'e ip'ius Will'mi & vxoris sue dedit tota' t'ra' de Buklande & eccl'ia' de Perreton' cu' alijs eccl'ijs et t'ris suis in diu's' loc' vt pat' p' carta' inde confecta' ad plantandu' & ordinandu' p' manu' Thome archidiaconi a'uncli ip'ius Will'mi de Erlegh Religione' apud Bukland & q^{d} iid'm Cano'ici sic plantati et ordinati in eodem loco p'dc'as t'ras & eccl'ias in vsus suos p'p'os in pura' p'petua' elemosina' possiderent.

No. II.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Will'ms d' Erlegh p'dict' dn's de Driston dedit ad edificand' domu' de B. . . . . cu' eccl'ia de Pereton, cu' o'ib' capellis membris &c. s's ecc' de Chedsey . . . o'i jure q'd fres' he'nt in eccl'ia de Poulett cu' capella de Huntw'th & Newton Comitis & de Thurlackston & de Sirdeston & de Newton & eccl'ia de Bekynton & de Kynm'sdon & de Sirston &c.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153b.]

Will'mus de Erlegh p'dc'us dn's de Driston dedit ad edifica'da' domu' de Bukland cu' eccl'ia Pereton cu' om'ib' membris capellis & p'tin' suis s' eccl'ia' de Chedsey q' est me'bru' eius & cu' om'i iure q^{d} ff're hospital' h'nt v'l habere debebu't in eccl'ia de Poulet no'ie eccl'ie de Pereton cu' capella de Huntworth & capella de Neweton Comit' & capella de Thurlakeston & capella d' Sirdeston & capella de Neweton Regis & dedit eccl'ia' de Bekynton' cu' om'ib' p'tin' & eccl'ia' de Kynm'sdon ac eccl'ia' de Sirston cu' alijs pl'rib' t'ris & bonis.

No. III.

[MS. in Coll. Arm., L. 17, f. 155.]

Ip'e (Henricus Rex Anglie II.) ecia' confirmauit domu' de Bukland vt sorores ib'm & non alibi remanerent.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Qui tamen religiosi p' interfecc'oe cuiusd'm Scenesca . . . . . ipi'us Will'i d' Erlegh dn's Henric' Rex 2 fecit eos . . . . Napoli tunc p'or hospit de S^{ti} Johis J'r'm in Angl ap . . . . . multoru' et Anglie p'ceru' p' collocandis ib'm soror . . . . ut fr'es p'd'ci in nullo alio loco in Angl' retin' . . . . . nisi in domo de Buckland.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 155.]

Quos quid'm Cano'icos postea p' plures annos p' eor' culpa & forisfactura, eo videl't quod quend^{a}m senescallu'

suu' consangu'em Will'mi de Erlegh int'fesseru't [interfecerunt] dn's Rex Henricus II^s p' tunc existens fecit amoueri, et f'ri Garn'io de Neapoli tunc p'ori Hospitalis sc'i Johis Jher'lm in Anglia apud London consensu Rad'i Cantuar' archei'pi & Reginald' Bathon' e'pi & multor' p'cer' Anglie tam cl'icor' q^am laicor' casd'm t'ras & ecclecias p' collocandis ib'm sororibus donauit ac confirmauit circa a^os dni Mill'mo c^m lxxx^m sub conuenco'ne videli't q^d id'm p'or seu sui successores in nulla alia domo sua in Anglia retineret sorores sui ordinus [ordinis] n' in p'dc'a domo de Bukland.

No. IV.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Que quidem sorores aliq . . . . . in domibus p'tic'laribus &^c Canonicos p'dctos in . . . . . prior tamen p'dict' consensu Regio decolla . . . fecit sorores . . . . .

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153.]

Que quid'm sororcs olim sp' suu' morabant viz apud Hamton iuxta Kyngeston apud Kerebrooke & Swynfeld & alijs loc'. Deinde frat' Garnerius p'dcus p'or de consensu regio eosd'm cano'icos tres viz in domu' hospital' p'd'ci ad petic'one' eor' suscepit et h'itu' eiusd'm hospital' tribuit & duos in p'oratu' de Tanton ac vnu' in p'oratu' de Berlith & vnu' in monast'iu' sc'i Barth'i de Smithfeld apud London Reginaldus ep'us Bathon' p'dc'us ip'is hec petentib' & obtantib' in Religione cano'icor' recipi fecit. Postmodu' vero hijs p'act' p'fatus frat' Garnarius p'or sorores in diu's' p'cept'ijs ordinis sui in Anglia vt p'd'cit' existentes vt p'dicit' congregari & ap^d Bukland de consensu ac volu'tate Regio necnon consensu om'i quor' int'fuit collocari fecit videl't sororem Milsante' apud Standon sororem Joh'am apud Hamton sororem Basilia' apud Kerebrooke sororem Amabiliam & sororc' Amisia' de Malketon' apud Shenegey sororc' Xpinam d' Hoggeshawe apud Hoggeshawe sororc' Petronillam apud Gosford et sororem Agnetam apud Clanefelde vt in eod'm loco de Buckland eod'm sorores & sue succ' deo inp'p'm deseruirent.

No. V.

[MS. Cott. Nero, E. VI., f. 467b.]

Nomina Prioru' Hospitalis Sancti Joh'is Jerl'm in Anglia.

Frat' Garnarius de Neapoli erat primus Prior tempore fundaco'is Soror' domus de Bukland temp'e Regis Henrici sc'di qui congregauit sorores tunc p' diu'sa loca disp'sas ac temp'e d'ne ffine prime Priorisse ib'm que Priorissa vixit in ip'o statu lx annis. Iste erat Prior p' pl'res annos ante passionem Sc'i Thome Martiris & obijt vltimo die Augusti.

Frat' Ric'us de Turk Prior temp'e eiusdem Priorisse obijt xij^{mo} die Augusti.

Frat' Rad'us de Dyna Prior temp'e eiusdem Priorisse obijt xiij^{mo} die Maij.

Frat' Gilb'tus de Veer Prior temp'e eiusdem Priorisse dedit sororib' domus . . . Bukland c^{s} annue pens: exeunt. de man'io de Reynh^{a}m & obiit xiij^{mo} die Augusti.

Frat' Hugo de Alneto Prior temp'e eiusdem Priorisse obijt xxiij^{o} die Nouembr'.

Frat' Alanus Prior & Ep'us de Bangor temp'e eiusdem Priorisse obijt xix^{o} die Maij.

Frat' Rob'tus Thesaurarius Prior tempore eiusdem Priorisse obijt xxvj^{to} die Octobr'.

Frat' Terricus de Nussa obijt xxj^{o} die Decembr' anno d'ni mill'imo cc^{mo} xxxvij^{mo}.

Frat' Rob'tus de Maunby Prior obijt xiiij^{o} die mens' Octobr'.

Frat' Rog'us de Veer Prior dedit eccl'ie de Clerkenwell vna' de sex ydrijs in quib' Jhesus conu'tit aquam in vinu' anno d'ni mill'imo cc^{mo} lxix^{o} & obijt xv die ffebruar' anno d'ni mill'imo cc^{mo} lxx^{o}.

Frat' Petrus de Hakh^{a}m Prior tempore Regis E. primi obijt xj^{o} die Januar'.

Frat' Simon Botard Prior obijt iij^{o} die Maij.

Frat' Helyas Smethton Prior obijt xxvij die April'.

Frat' Steph'us ffulburn Prior obijt primo die Januar'.

Frat' Joseph Chauncy Prior obijt xix^{o} die Maij. Iste fieri fecit capellam d'ni Prioris in domo de Clerkenwell temp'e E. p'mi a conquestu.

Frat' Walterus Prior adquisiuit p'ceptorias de Quenyngton & Shenegey & plures terras & ten' & obijt xxviij^{o} [?] die Augusti.

Frat' Will's de Haunle Prior fieri fecit claustrum de Clerkenwell anno d'ni mill'imo cc^{mo} lxxxiiij^{to} et regni regis E. primi xij^{o} et obijt iiij^{to} die ffebruar' anno d'ni sup^{a}d'co.

Frat' Ric'us Pauley Prior tempore Regis E. filij E. obijt iij^{o} die Augusti.

Frat' Rob'tus de Dyna Prior obijt xxiiij^{to} die Nouembr'.

Frat' Will's Tothall Prior obijt xij^{o} die Octobr' anno d'ni mill'imo ccc^{mo} xviij^{o} lr'a d'nicalis D.

Frat' Thomas L'archier Prior obijt xxviij^{o} die Augusti anno d'ni mill'imo ccc^{mo} xxix^{o} hic dedit sororib' de Bukland xl^{s} annuatim imp'p'm p'cipiend' de man'io de Hidon' p'tin' ad Templecombe.

Frat' Leonardus de Tyb'tis Prior obijt vltimo die Januar' temp'e huius bona Templarior' data sunt Hospitalarijs.

No. VI.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 148b.]

Kerebrooke.—Matildis Comitissa de Clare vxo^{r} Will'i comit' de Clare ac mat' Ric'i comit' de Clare dedit ——— ——— so'rib' dom' de Bukland xiij^{s} iiij^{d} solvend' annuati' p' man' p'ceptoris ib'm p'o temp'e existent' & alia pl'ra bona Hec donac'o f'ca fuit apud Westmon'. a^{o} qui'to rr' Ric'i p'mi & a^{o} d'ni mill'mo c' lxxxxij^{o} & tempore ff'ris Ala' p'oris hospitalis in Anglia & Ep'i de Bangor.

No. VII.

will be found included in No. V.

No. VIII.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. ix., f. 23.]

Deinde frater Hugo de Alneto p'or hospit p'd' consensu fr . . . . . d'ne Lorette comitisse Leicestrie ad inveniend' j fre'm Capella . . . celebrantem miss^{a}m gloriose Virginis ; s's in excambio p' ter' alijs . . . .

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153b.]

Deinde ffrat' Hugo de Alneto p'or Hospital' p'dci de co'i consensu & volluntate ffr'm capituli concessit dn'e Lorrette

comitisse Leycestrie ad inveniendu' vnu' ffr'm capellanu' cotidie celebrat'um missa' gloriose virginis Maria [Marie] eccl'ia Soror' p'dear' p' c'tis t'ris redit' alijs que p'dca comitissa contulit domui hospital' sc'i Joh'is in p'p'os vsus soror' p'dear' de Bukland conuertend' Ita q^d p'd'ctus ffrat' capellanus nulli alij s'uic'o deputabit' n' p'p'e gloriose v'ginis minist'io in eccl'ia p'd'ca.

No. IX.

[Cart. 11 Hen. III., p. 2, m. 6.]

P' Hospital' de Bocland. Rex &c. salt'. Insp^eximus cartam Lorette quonda' Comitisse Leycestr' f'cam D'o & b'e Marie & s'co Joh'i Bapt'e & b'atis paup'ib' s'ce domus hospital' Ierosol' ad sust'ntaco'em sorror' de Bocland * * in h' uerba. Not' sit om'ib' X'pi fidelib' tam p'sentib' q^as futuris hoc script' visuris v'l audituris q'd ego Loretta comitissa Leycestr' dedi & concessi D'o & b'e Marie & sc'o Joh'i Bapt'e & b'is paup'ib' domus hospital' Ierosol' ad sust'ntaco'em soror' de Boclaund D'o s'uienciu' & ad inueniend' quendam cap'll'm fr'em in eade' domo qui cotidie & p'petuo missam in honore b'e Virginis Marie i' maiori eccl'ia ap' Bokland. ad altare b'e Virginis celebret p' salute anime mee & d'ni Rob'i viri mei Com' quonda' Leicestr' & p' salute a'iar' p'ris & m'ris mee & om'iu' ancessor' & successor' meor' tota' t'ram meam de Noteston' & totam t'ram meam de Ynesford ex^a aq^am & vlt^a aq^am & lxiiij ac^as de d'nico meo sup' Ruwedon' & totam t'ram meam de Ridescot' & de Hele & de Chorlecot' & de Tunecot'. & de Boteburn' & totam t'ram q^as tenet Philipp' at Viam cu' ho'ib' p'd'cas t'ras tenentib'. & p't'ea cent' ac^as de d'nico meo in Frem'esmore & boscu' meu' qui uocat' Anc^wd' & vnu' ferling' ad Roitheye cu' om'ib' p'tin' suis in man'io de Toustok cu' pasturis & om'ib' aliis ad p'd'cas t'ras p'tin'tib'. Et p't'ea om'imoda' com'unam int' ten'ta mea vbiq' lib'e & * h'end' & possidend' in p'petuam & puram elemosina' sic' ulla elemos' lib'ius & quiecius dari potest. & vt h' mea donac'o futuris temp'ib' p'petue firmitatis robur optineat. eam p'sentis sc^ep' munimi'e cu' sigilli mei app'oe dign' duxi roborare. Hiis testib'. Mag'ro Lamb'to subdecano Wal'nsi d'no Philippo de Alben'. d'no Rog'o de La Cuche. Ada' fil'

Hondebrand' Mag'ro Vmfr' Canon Cycestr' Mag'ro Regin' de Mereston'. Will'o capell'o de Bukingeh'. Walt'o cl'rico de Langeh'. Thom' cl'rico de Glouecestr'. Nich' de Wyleya. & aliis. Nos hanc donat' & concessione' rata' & g^{a}tas h'entes. p'd'co hospitali & sororib' p'd'cis eam p' nob' & h'edib' n'ris concedim' & co'firmamus. T. ut sup^{a} Dat' ut sup^{a}. (Dat' p' manu' R. Cycestr' ep'i &c. ap' Westm. xvj die Jul' anno &c. xj^{o}.)

No. X.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Rad' filius Will'mi de Bremerye dedit Sororib' p'd' ecc' de Toland. Alan' filius Ant'i Russell eccl^{a}m de Danington in dioc. Linc. Warin' de Aula, Budescombe &c.

Ascuid Musard Chiltcombe Wysang^{r} & Bochelcotte.

Rob'tus Arundale Halse &c.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153b.]

Rad'us filius Will'i de Briwere dedit sororib' ib'm ecclia' de Toland cu' p'tin'.

Alanus filius Ant'i Russell dedit ecclia' de Donington in dioc' Lyncolne p'tin' eisd'm.

Warinus de Aula dedit Bodescombe p'tin' eisd'm sororibus.

Ascuid Musard dedit Chiltcombe Wysangre & Bochelcote.

Rob'tus Arundale dedit Halse c'm p'tin.

No. XI.

[Pat. 12 Hen. III., m. 2.]

P' sororib' de Bocland.—D'ns R' i'tuitu D'i co'cessit sororib' de ordine Hospital' S'ci Joh'is J'rlm ap' Bocland d'o s'uientib' & s'uit'is qd singul' sept' capiant i' p'co d'ni R' de Neuton de mortuo bosco eiusd' p'ci vna' carectatam busce ad focu' suu'. Et q' compete'tius i' estate qa' i' hyeme cape' pot'nt p'dc'am busca', co'cessit eis d'ns R'

q'd a Pasch' usq' ad festu' S'ci Pet' ad Vincula busca' p'dcam capiant i' p'dco p'co ad num'm carectar' q' de toto anno eis compet'nt scd'm concess' n'ram p'dcam. In cui' &c. T. R. ap. Neubir' iij die Aug'.

Et mand' Ric'o de Wrotha' qd eas p'd'cam busca' cap'e p'mittat sic' p'dc'm est. T'. ut s[a].

No. XII.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153.]

Deinde ffrat' Terricus de Mussa p'or hospital' p'dci de concilio ffr'm gen'alis capit'li dedit d'cis sororib' de Bukland & successorib' suis xxx[ta] & octo m[a]rcas duodecim solidos & octo denarios st'lingor' annuati' recipiend' inp'p'm ad duos anni t'minos viz ad f'm pasche decem & noue' ma'cas sex solidos & quatuor denarios de p'ceptore d' Bukland qui p' tempore fu'it ita q[d] p'ceptor de p'dcis xxxviij ma'c' xij[s] & viij[d] a d'co Terrico & successoribus suis h'ebit allocac'one' sup' responc'one sua soluenda.

No. XIII.

[MS. Cott. Tib. E. IX., f. 23.]

Consequent[r] fr' Rog'us de Ver p'or hospit'lis p'dict in adventu suo ad . . . . . p' statu dom' ordinavit &[c].

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 153b.]

Consequent' v[o] ffrat' Roge'us de Ver p'or hospital' p'd'ci in aduentu suo ad Bukland p' statu domus videndo invenit distancia' & discordia' int' p'iorem p'ceptorem & p'orissa' ac conuentu' dom' de Bukland p' diu's' reb' d'cas priorissa' & sorores tangentib' et assensu capit'li sui de Melcheburn ad p'petua' pace' int' ip'os s'uanda' ordinauit int' cet'a q[d] p'dc'e p'orissa & conuentus h'ebunt senscallu' suu' ad mensa' p'ceptoris & unu' garc'one' sedentem cu' garconib' p'ceptoris & erit ibi cotidie in mensa nisi dux'it h'ue s'm dicti senescalli & ad f'm sc'i Mich'is cu' tinere volu'it senescallus curia' de la hele h'ebit de selario qui'q' albos panes & costrellos suos plenos s'uicie et ad id'm f'm p' cur' de Kynm'sdon d' Primmilegh tenend' h'ebit totid'm & ad le

hokeday totide' equitatura' vero & om'ia alia necc'ia h'ebit de lib'ac'oe & ordinaco'e p'orissa [p'orisse] & conuent'. Et si in aliquo deliquerit, licebit p'orisse ea' [eu'] defendere ne de bonis ear' int°mittat sed non eu' remouere absq' p'ore. It'm h'ebunt saserdote' s'clarem ad celebrandu' p' ani'a Sororis ffine quond^am p'orisse ib'm & a'iab' fundator' & b'nfactor' d'ce dom' qui erit in mensa cu' ffrib' & lectu' in thalamo int' sas'dotes & cl'icos & p' relicu' tempus scd'm dispoco'ne' p'orisse ita q^d p'ceptor he'at allocacone' de quinq' m^arcr' p' mensa d'ci sacerdot' & ecia' vni' ffris celebrant' missa' be' Marie & ecia' tres solidos ad f'm sc'i Mich'is p' cl'ico de capella.

No. XIV.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 156.]

Edwardus Rex Anglie a conquestu p'mus concessit —— vnu' mercatu' singul' sept' p' die' Lune apud Man'iu' suu' de Halse in Com' Som's.

[Cart. 18 Edw. I., m. 19, n. 80.]

P' P'ore hospitalis S'ci Joh'is Je'rlm in Angl'. R' archiep'is &c. salt'm. Sciatis nos concessisse & hac carta n'ra confirmasse dil'co nob' in X'po f'ri Will'o de Henleye Priori Hospital' S'ci Joh'is Jer'lm in Angl' q'd ipe & successores sui imp'petuu' h'eant vnum m'catum sing'lis septimanis p' diem Lune apud man'ium suu' de Hause in Com' Som's'. Nisi m'catum illud sit ad nocumentu' vicinar' m'cator'. Concessim' eciam &c. —— Quare volum' & firmit' p'cipim' p' nob' & h'edib' n'ris q'd p'deus Prior & successores sui imp'petuu' h'eant p'd'em m'catu' apud man'ium suu' de Hause cu' om'ib' lib'tatib' & lib'is consuetudinib' ad hui'modi m'catum p'tinentib'. Nisi &c. ——— Hiis testib' ven'abilib' p'rib' G. Wygorn' R. Bathon' & Wellen. A. Dunolmens' & Th. Menevens' Ep'is. Edmundo fr'e n'ro. Will'o de Valencia auunc'lo n'ro. Gilb'to de Clare Com' Glouc' & Il'tf'. Henrico de Lacy comite Linc'. Humfrido de Bohun comite Heref' & Essex. Rog'o de Bigod comite Norf' & Marescallo Angl'. Ottone de Grandisono. Petro de Chaumpvent. Ric'o de Bosco & aliis. Dat' p' manu' n'ram apud Westm. vj die Maij.

No. XV.

will be found included in No. V.

No. XVI.

[MS. Harl. 6965, p. 17.]

Official. Cur. Cant. dicreto viro mag'ro Ric'o de Thistelden officiali d'ni Radulphi ep'i Bath. & Well. salut. Ex parte religiosorum viroru' Prioris & fr'um Hosp. sci Joh. Jer'lm in Angl. nobis extitit intimatum q^d cu' vos pretenderetis prefatos religiosos ad exhibendu' titulu' si quem haberent in ecc'lis de Northpederton, Durston, Halse, Bromfild, & Kynemersden, Bath. & Well. dioc. quas in usus proprios canonici possidebant, & possiderant ab antiquo, & ad prestand' vener. p'ri pred'co obedientiam rac'oe eccli'aru' pred'carum coram vobis d'ci p'ris commissario speciali ad judiciu' evocatos pars eorundem religiosoru' cora' vobis in judiciu' sufficienter comparens, ut sibi copiam commissionis & certificatorij citaco'is p' vos in hac parte pretensarum fieri faceretis, a vobis cum instantia debita postulavit, sed vos —— effectualiter exaudire, aut copiam hujusmodi eidem facere non curastis, sed d'cos religiosos contumaces, cu' non essent, pronunciastis, ipsosq' —— in immoderata pecunie summa mulctastis, ipsamq' mulctam a preceptore f'ribus & sororibus domus d'corum religiosoru' de Boclaunde d'ce dioc. levanda' fieri decrevistis & levari mandastis &c. appellatu' ad sede' Ap'licam, —— quare vobis inhibemus —— ne pendente in Cur. Cant. hujusmodi negotio quicquam hac occasione in d'ce partis appellantis prejudiciu' attemptetis &c. dat. Lond. 6 Kal. Oct. [1329.]

No. XVII.

[MS. in Coll. Armor, L. 17, f. 156b.]

Henric' Rex Anglie iij' [iiij'] ampliauit & pleniu' declarauit carta' q^m Henric' Rex Anglie p'genitor suus concessit p'orisse & sororib' domus de Bukeland videli't q^d ip'e quali't septi'ana imp'p'm cap'ent in p'co suo de Pederton tres carectatas busce p' focali suo & ista v'ba tres carectatas

busce de spinis alno & arabil' ad focu' suu' & postea inveniab't' q^d p'd'ce p'orissa & sorores non erant capaces d'ce concessionis eo q^d sunt obedienciare P'oris Hospital' S'ci Joh'is Jher'lm in Anglia i'o custodes d'ni Regis i'bm d'cam concessione' h'ere non p'misit. Quare Rex Henric' q^rtus p'd'cus de gra' sp'ali a^o sui x^o concessit p' salute a'ie sue ac Joh'ne consort' sue n^cnon Maria [Marie] consort' sue defuncte q^d p'or Hospital' & succ' sui imp'p'm p' se & s'uient' suos de Buk' p'cipiant quali't septi'ana iij carectatas subbosci infra p'cu' suu' de Pederton viz Thorn aller mapell & hasell ad vsum & p'ficuu' d'car' P'orisse & soror' & succ' suar' imp'p'm. Et q^d queli't carectata subbosci p'd'ci existat de tractu sex equor' & q^d ip'i p'st'nant succidant & carient ad voluntate' sua' subboscu' p'dcu' quol't a^o a festo An'unc' be' Marie vsq' f'm Omi' Scor' q^d antea erat concess' eis a Pasca vsq' f'm S'ci Petri ad uincula absq' impedimento seu p'turbac'one aliquali officiarior' d'ni Regis.

[Pat. 10 Hen. IV., p. 1, m. 19.]

P' Priorissa & sororib' de Bucland. R' om'ib' ad quos &c. sal'tm. Sciatis q'd cum dil'ce nob' in Xpo Priorissa & sorores ordinis hospitalis S'ci Joh'is Jer'lm de Bucland nobis monstrau'int qualit' nobilis p'genitor n'r Henr' nup' Rex Angl' p' cartam suam quam confirmauim' concessit sororib' domus p'dce tunc deo s'uientib' & s'uituris qd ip'e quali't septimana imp'pm cap'ent in parco suo de Perton iam vocato Pederton tres carectatas busce p' focali suo p' ista v'ba tres carectatas busce de spinis alno & arabl' ad focum suu' ac p' eo qd competencius extitit ad capiend' buscam p'dcam in estate q^m in yeme concessit eis qd ip'e cap'ent buscam p'dcam in parco p'dco a Pascha vsq' festum S'ci Petri ad vincula ad num'u' carectar' que eis de toto anno p'tinerent iuxta concessionem p'dcam p'ut in carta & confirmac'oe p'dcis plenius continet' qd q' vigore concessionis & confirmac'ois p'dcar' p'fate Priorissa & sorores in pacifica omn' p'dcar' carectar' busce infra parcum p'dcm annuatim p'ut in concessione & confirmac'oe p'dcis fit mencio a tempore confecco'is car'dem extiterunt absq' aliquo impedimento seu g^auamine n'ri vel p'genitor' n'ror' p'dcor' aut custodum parci p'dci qui p' tempore fuerunt seu alior' ministror' vel officiarior' ibidem quor'cumq'

quousq' iam tarde q'd nunc custos n'r ibidem ipas buscam p'dcam aut aliquam parcellam eiusdem iuxta concessionem & confirmacoem p'dcas h'ere non p'misit p' eo qd p'dce Priorissa & sorores sunt obedienciarie Priori hospitalis S'ci Joh'is Jer'lm in Angl' ac qd ip'e p'sone capaces p'ut p'dcus custos sup' ip'as imponit non existunt. Vnde nob' supplicarunt sibi p' nos de gra' & remedio in hac parte p'uideri. Nos de gra' n'ra sp'ali & ad effc'm qd p'dce Priorisa & sorores p' salubri statu n'ro ac carissime consortis n're Johanne dum vixim' & p' a'iab' n'ris cum ab hac luce mig^a^u'im' necnon p' a'ia carissime consortis n're Marie defuncte denocius exorent & qd om'imoda ambiguitas & dubia hui' v'bor' de spinis alno & arabl' in concessione p'dca specificator' amoueant' concessim' p' nobis & heredib' n'ris quantum in nob' est Walt'o Grendon Priori d'ci hospitalis S'ci Joh'is Jer'lm in Angl' & successorib' suis impp'm qd ip'e & successores sui p' se & s'uientes suos d'ci hospitalis de Bucland h'eant & p'cipiant quali't septimana tres carectatas subbosci infra boscum n'rm p'dcm siue Parcum de Pederton videl't thorn aller mapel & hasell ad vsum & p'ficuu' p'dcar' Priorisse & soror' & successor' suar' impp'm et q'd quel't carectata subbosci p'dci de tractu sex equor' existit q'dq' p'fatus Prior & successores sui p'dci vel s'uientes sui p'dci h'eant & p'cipiant p'dcas tres carectatas subbosci vt p'dcm est impp'm & qd ip'i p'sternant succidant & carient ad voluntatem suam subboscum p'dcm p' focali p'dcar' Priorisse & soror' & successor' suar' quol't anno a festo Anunciaco'is b'e Marie vsq' festum O'im Scor' ad num'u' carectar' que eis aut successorib' suis p' totu' annu' p'tinebunt absq' p't'baco'e impedimento seu g^a^uamine n'ri vel heredum n'ror' aut Custodis n'ri d'ci bosci n'ri vel parci seu alt'ius officiarij siue ministri n'ri vel heredum n'ror quor'cumq'. In cuius &c. T. R. apud West'm xiiij die Nouemb'i. p' b're de priuato sig'.

No. XVIII.

[MS. Lansd. 200, ff. lxxxiiii, lxxxiiii b.]

Assemblia tent' in domo de Clerkenwel xx die Januarij, 1500, P'ntib' ib'm p'sonal'r R^do^ d. p'ori ffr' Jo. Kendal. ff. H.

Hawley. ff. B. Pek. ff. Ro. Dauson. ff. T. Newport. ff. Ro. Danyel. ff. A. Chetwod. ff. Jo. Tonge. ff. Jo. Bowth. & ffr. Will'o Darel P'ceptrib'—

Om'ib' X'pi fidelibus ad quos p'sens scriptum Indentatum peruen'it ffrater Joh'es Kendall Prior Hospit'lis Sancti Joh'is J'rlm in Anglia Et eiusdem P'oris Conf'res Salt'm in d'no sempit'na'. Sciatis nos p'fatos Priorem & conf'res vna'mi nostris assensu et consensu tradidisse et ad firma' dimisisse Joh'i Vernay de ffarefelde in Com' Som's' armigero preceptoria' n'ram de Buclande Prioris in dicto Com' cu' manerijs de Bodmescomb et Cove in Com' Deuon' eidem p'ceptorie p'tinentib' et cu' om'ib' et sing'lis alijs dominijs t'ris et ten'tis pratis pascuis et pasturis redditib' et s'uicijs conf'rijs in Com' Som's' & Deuon' curijs cu' ear' p'ficujs decimis oblaco'ib' bonis et catallis felonu' et fugitiuor' et cu' om'ib' alijs libertatib' emolimentis et com'oditatib' quibuscuq' ad d'cam p'ceptoria' qualit'cumq' spectantib' et p'tinentib' Boscis & subboscis aduocac'onib' Eccl'iar' wardis maritagijs & releuijs duntaxat exceptis Ac nobis p'fato Priori et succ' n'ris om'ino res'uat' Habend' & tenend' predicta' p'ceptoria' cu' om'ib' suis p'tinen' p'dict' except' p'except' p'fato Joh'i Vernay et assignatis suis a festo Natiuitatis Sc'i Joh'is Bap^te^ prox' futur' post data' p'sens' vsq' ad fine' et term' Triginta annor' extu'c p'x' sequens et plenarie complendor' Reddendo inde an^tim^ nobis p'fato P'ori et succ' n'ris apud thesauria' n'ram de Clerkenwell p'pe London Nonaginta et tres libras sex solidos & octo denarios sterlingor' ad festa Purificaco'is b'te Marie Virginis et S'ci Barnabe ap'li equis porc'onib' durante termi'o p'dicto It'm p'dictus ffirmarius et assignati sui sumptib' suis p'prijs tenebu't debita' et honesta' hospitalitatem infra dicta' p'ceptoria' Necno' sumptib' suis inuenient scd'm antiqua' consuetudine' quinq' Capellanos videlic' duos Capellanos de cruce vel alios duos quos nos p'dictus Prior vel succ' n'ri deputabimus infra Eccl'iam de Buclande priorissa vnu' Capellanu' infra capella' p'ceptorie ib'm vnu' Capellanu' apud Bodmescomb' et vnu' Capellanu' apud Durston diuina continuo ib'm celebraturos durante termi'o p'dicto Necnon victu' et camera' pro vno Cap^o^ d'ce priorisse atq' victu' pro seniscallo domus eiusd'm Priorisse et p' famulo suo cu' duob' bigat' feni an^tim^ eod'm termi'o durante Prouiso semp' q' dictus ffirmarius et

assignati sui dabunt et soluent an^ti' durante dicto termi'o d'no Alexandro Vernay capellano celebranti apud Bodmescomb' camera' cu' focali suo ib'm et octo marcas sterlingor' no'ie stipendij sui et pro victu et vestitu suo sc'dm tenore' carte sub sigillo n'ro com'j eid'm d'no Alexandro facte pro termi'o vite sue. It'm p'dictus firmarius et assignati sui soluent priorisse et Con'^ui de Bucland p'dict' an^tim p' pensione sua consueta xxij^li atq' seniscallo curiar' dicte p'ceptorie p'tinenciu' feodu' suu' Necnon om'ia alia on'a ordinaria et extraordinaria dicte preceptorie incumbencia & imponenda p'dictus ffirmarius et assign' sui supportabu't sumptib' suis durante termi'o p'dc'o Responsionib' et alijs subsidijs pro com'j thez^o Rhodi imposit'is et imponendis du'taxat exceptis Reparabunt q' dictus firmarius et assign' sui om'ia domos et edificia muros sepes clausuras et fossatas dicte p'ceptorie p'tinen' durante termi'o predicto eaq' om'ia et sing'la in fine eiusd'm term'i nobis p'fato Priori & succ' n'ris in adeo bono statu quo ea recepit sursum reddent et liberabunt P'uiso q' si contingat aliqua edificia dicte p'ceptorie ad terra' propt' eor' ruinam cadere infra de'm term' In tali casu nos p'dictus Prior et succ' n'ri edificia illa nostris su'ptib' de nouo edificabim' illaq' sic de nouo edificata p'dictus ffirmarius & assignati sui eor' sumptib' postmodu' reparabu't et manutenebu't durante termi'o p'dicto It'm dictus firmarius et assign' sui expensas mi'stror' nostri p'dicti Prioris et succ' n'ror' cu' quinq' vel sex equis venienciu' bis p' annu' ad sup'vidend' d'cam p'ceptoria' vel ad tenend' curias ib'm vel ad renouand' rentalia et alias evidencias per tres vel quatuor dies et tot noctes supportare tenea't^r durante termi'o p'dicto Habebunt q' dictus ffirmarius et assign' sui housebote ffyrebote ploughbote cartbote hedgebote harobote et ffoldebote in et de boscis ac subboscis dicte p'ceptorie p'tinentib' p' assignaco'em mi'stror' nostri p'dicti P'oris et succ' nostror' capiend' et in dicta p'ceptoria rac'onabilit' et sine vasto expendend' durante termi'o p'dicto Et bene liceb^t nobis p'dicto Priori et succ' atq' mi'stris n'ris quando nobis placu'it sup'videre dicta' p'ceptoria' nostra' cu' suis p'tinen' Necnon tene' curias et face' rent'lia atq' territoria terrar' et ten'tor' p'dicte preceptorie durante termi'o p'dicto Prouiso q' dictus ffirmarius et assign' sui habebu't et p'cipie't p'ficua d'car' Curiar' cod'm termi'o durante dictus q' ffirmarius et assignati sui liberabu't nobis

p'd'co Priori et succ' n'ris in fine d'ci term'j om'es rotulos curiar' et rentalia tam antiqua q^{a}m noua que p'uenient ad manus suas durante termi'o p'dicto PROUISO semp' q' non licebit p'dicto Joh'i Vernay statum quem habet in p'dicta p'ceptoria alicui alteri dimittere sine licc'cia nostri p'dicti P'oris et succ' n'ror' durante termi'o p'dicto ET SI CONTINGAT dictu' an'ualc' redditu' lxxxxiij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} sterlingor' a retro fore in parte vel in toto et non solut' post aliquem terminu' soluco'is sup'ius specificatu' per duos menses Tunc bene licebit nobis predicto Priori et succ' n'ris in p'dicta' p'ceptoria' cu' suis jurib' et pertinen' vniu's' reintrare eaq' om'ia et sing'la vt in pristino statu n'ro retin'e p'nti dimissione in aliquo non obstante PROUISO semp' q' cu' p'ficua Confratriar' que sunt parcelle reuencionu' dicte p'ceptorie extimantur ad annuale' valore' lxxxxij^{li}: Idcirco si contingat &^{m} dn'm n'r'm papa' modernu' siue success' suos suspend'e dictas confr'ias aliquo tempore durante termi'o p'ntis indent'e Tunc p'dictus Joh'es Vernay ffirmarius et assign' sui durante illa suspenc'one non erunt onerati cu' dicta integra annuali firma lxxxxiij^{li} vj^{s} viij^{d} sed du'taxat erunt computabiles sup' eor' sacramentu' p'dicto Priori et succ' suis de tantis pecunijs quas recipient ex nuncijs confr'iar' p'dictar' pro dictis confr'ijs et de illis du'taxat pecunijs facient soluc'onem p'dicto Priori & succ' suis dura'te suspencione p'dicta atq' de residuo pecuniar' carente ex dicta su'ma lxxxxij^{li} pro confr'ijs idem ffirmarius et assign' sui allocac'onem habebu't in p'dicta eor' annuali firma Nonaginta et triu' librar' sex solidor' et octo denarior' durante suspenco'e p'dicta ET AD OM'ES et sing'las conuenco'es p'dictas ex parte p'dicti Joh'is Vernay ffirmarij et assign' suor' cu' eff'tu p'implendas idem Joh'es Vernay obligat se heredes et executores suos p'dicto Priori & succ' suis In ducentis libris sterlingor' p' p'sentes IN CUIUS Rei testi'om tam sigillu' n'r'm co'e q'm sigillu' p'dicti Joh'is Vernay p'ntib' indenturis alt'nati' sunt appensa DAT' in domo n'ra de Clerkenwell prope London in Assemblia n'ra tent' ib'm vicesimo die Januarij a^{o} d'ni Mill'mo Quingentesimo PROUISO semp' q' dictus ffirmarius et assign' sui in ffine p'dicti term'i dimittent et liberabu't preceptori de Buclande p'dict' p' tempore existen' om'ia orname'ta capelle ib'm sim'l cu' to^{o} stauro viuo & mortuo specificato in dorso p'nt' indenture Dat' ut sup^{a}.

No. XIX.

[Miscell. Books, Off. Aug., vol. 245., no. 128.]

BUKELOND.—Here ffoloweth the yerely pencons or anuyties grauntyd by the Kinges highnes to the late P'ores and Nunes of the late surrendryd howse of Buckelonde in the countie of Som'sett. And they and eu'y of them to haue there halfe yeres penc'on at th'anuncac'on of o^r ladye next cumyng whiche shalbe in the yere of o^r lorde god a thowsande fyve hundreth xxxix, and soo from halfe yere to halfe yere during there lyves and the lyfe of eu'y of them—

That is to say

Ffurst to Katheryn Bowser p'oresse for her yerely penc'on	l^{li}
To Margaret Sydnam supp'ores	$iiij^{li}$ $xiij^{s}$ $iiij^{d}$
To Julyan Kendall	$iiij^{li}$ vj^{s} $viij^{d}$
To Jone Hyll	$iiij^{li}$
To Anne Plumm'	$iiij^{li}$
To Tomysyn Huntyngton ..	$iiij^{li}$
To Katheryn Poph^am ..	$iiij^{li}$
To Anne Maunsell	$iiij^{li}$
To Mary Dodyngton	$iiij^{li}$
To Alce Emerforde	$iiij^{li}$
To Jane Babyngton	$iiij^{li}$
To Mary Mathew	$iiij^{li}$
To Agnes Mathew	$iiij^{li}$
To Isabell Grene	$iiij^{li}$
To S's Will^am Mawdesley co'fessor and p'fessyd in there order	$iiij^{li}$
Sm^a of the yerely pensions	$cvij^{li}$

Jo. Tregonwell.
William Petre.

No. XX.

[Card. Pole's Pension Book, fol. xxix.]

ffeod' { Alex'i Popham capitl' Sen^li ib'm p' script' Abb'is et Conven' p' a' } c^{s}

Buckeland nup' monast'iu'

Ant
- Sup'd'ci Alex'i Popham p' annu' .. vj^{li} xiij^{s} iiij^{d}
- Joh'nis Tregonwell p' annu' .. iiij^{li}
- Will'i Portema' mil' p' annu' .. xxvj^{s} viij^{d}
- Joh'nis Butler p' annu' xiij^{s} iiij^{d}

Penc'
- Johanne Hille p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Thomasine Huntingdon p' annu' .. .. iiij^{li}
- Kat'ine Pophame p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Anne Maundefeld p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Johanne Bavington p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Elisabeth Grene p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Agnes Mathewe p' annu' iiij^{li}
- Will'i Maudesley cl'ic' p' annu' .. .. iiij^{li}

No. XXI.

[Abstract of Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 1, r. xxxviii.]

P' Comite Essex Jacobo Rokeby Will'o Ibgrabe Joh'e Cokke Edwardo Rogers & Edwardo Bury sibi & hered'.

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Sciatis q'd nos p' sum'a mille quadraginta nouem librar' vndecim solidor' duor' denarior' & vnius oboli legalis monete Angl' ad manus &c. ——— p' p'dil'c'm & fidelem consanguineu' & consiliariu' n'r'm Comitem Essex ac p' dil'cos nob' Jacobum Rokeby armig'um Will'm Ibgrabe armig'um Joh'em Cokke Edwardum Rogers et Edwardum Bury armig'os ———— totam domu' & Scitum nup' monast'ij de Buckland in Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissoluto ac om'ia terr' prata pasturas & hereditamenta n'ra vocat' seu cognit' p' nomen vel p' no'i'a de fouretene acres Newland Purches Staplehayes Roden Lobbis Harys Horlocke Meade Hurte Meade Longe Meade & Sixe acres Meade seu quocumq' alio no'i'e aut quibuscumq' aliis no'ib' sciant^{r} censeant^{r} vel cognoscant^{r} cum om'ib' ear' p'tin' modo vel nup' in tenura siue occu-

paco'e d'ci Edwardi Rogers vel assign' suor' iacen' & existen' in Bucklande alias dict' Buckland Soror' in d'co Com' Som's' d'co nup' Monast'io de Buckland dudum spectan' vel p'tinen' ac parcell' possessionu' inde existen' ac in manib' cultura & occupaco'e p'pria nup' Priorisse illius nup' Monast'ij de Buckland tempore dissoluco'is eiusdem nup' Monast'ij reseruat' existen' Ac om'es illos boscos n'ros & t'ras n'ras vocat' Riden Coppes & Wynsell Wood continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras cum cor' p'tin' vniu'sis in Buckland ——— Necnon om'ia domos edificia horrea stabula columbaria ortos pomaria gardina t'ram & solum n'ra quecumq' infra Scitum Septum ambitum circuitum & p'cinctum d'ci nup' Monast'ij de Buckland existen' ac om'ia & singula co'ias vias semitas easiamenta com'oditates p'ficua & emolumenta quecumq' in Buckland et Mighelchurche & Northpetherton p'dict' dict' t'ris pratis & pasturis in Buckland & Mighelchurche p'dict' quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' & cum eisdem vsitat' seu occupat' existen' Acciam totam illam Rectoriam n'ram & eccl'iam n'ram siue Capellam n'ram de Mighelchurche cum p'tin' in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' Monast'io de Buckland dudum spectan' & p'tinen' Necnon om'es & om'imod' decimas blador' garbar' g^nor' feni lane & agnellor' ac alias decimas minutas ac oblaco'es obuenco'es & p'ficua quecumq' in Mighelchurche & Buckland p'd'cis & alibi vbicumq' d'cc Rectorie et eccl'ie siue Capelle de Mighelchurche quoquo modo spectan' vel p'tinen' ——— Et que quidem Scitus d'ci nup' Monast'ij de Buckland ac p'dict' terr' prata pascue pastur' decime ac cet'a p'missa in Buckland Northpetherton & Michelchurche p'd'cis modo extendunt^r ad clar' annuu' valorem septuaginta quinq' solidor' & octo denarior' ——— Il'end' &c. in capite p' s'uiciu' vicesime partis vnius feodi militis ac reddendo annuatim &c. ——— pro p'd'cis t'ris ten' pratis pascuis pasturis rectoria decimis & cet'is p'missis in Buckland & Mighelchurche p'dict' septem solidos & septem denarios sterlingor' ——— ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i singulis annis soluend' ———. Ac p't'q^m de Centum sex solidis & octo denarijs annuatim soluend' p' stipendio Curat' diuina celebrant' in eccl'ia siue Capella de Mighelchurche p'dict' ——— In cuius &c. T. R. apud Westm' xxx die Junij.

No. XXII.

[Abstract of Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 3, rot. xij.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Sciatis q' nos p' su'ma septingentar' quinquaginta quatuor librar' septendecim solidor' & octo denarior' bone & legalis monete n're Anglie ——— Will'm Porteman s'uientem n'r'm ad legem & Alexandrum Poph'm armig'm p' manib' bene & fidelit' solut' de quaquidem sum'a septigentar' &c ——— totum illud maniu' n'r'm de Northpetherton alias Northpederton in Com' n'ro Som's' cum om'ib' & singulis suis iurib' membr' & p'tin' uniu'sis nup' Prioratui de Bukland in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' ac parcell' possessionu' reuencionu' seu p'fic uor' inde existen' ac totum situm eiusdem man'ij ac om'ia t'ras d'nicales prata pascua & pastur' cum suis p'tin' eidem man'io p'tin' seu spectan' Acetiam totum illum boscum n'r'm vulgarit' vocat' Barwoode iacen' & existen' in Northpetherton alias Northpederton p'd'ca continen' p' estimac'oem octo acras t're & bosci cum p'tin' Necnon om'ia illa mesuagia t'ras & ten' prata pascua & pastur' n'ra cum suis p'tin' iacen' & existen' in Gotton infra parochiam de Westemonketon in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' prioratui Bukeland dudum spectan' & pertinen' —— in tenuris siue occupaco'ib' Ric'i Warr Armig' Rob'ti Warr Will'i Hare & Weltheane Merkes vidue —— Necnon om'ia mesuagia tofta domos edificia orrea stabula columbaria molendina ortos gardina pom'ia t'ras ten' prata &c. —— boscos subboscos — aquas stagna viuaria gurgites — piscaco'es, co'ias, vasta &c— feod'milit' &c—in Northpetherton alias Northpederton Michelchurche Bromfeld Brymton Raiff Wollauington & Mirelinche ac in Gotton in d'ca parochia de Westmonckton — aut alib' vbicumq' in eodem Com' n'ro Som's' —— Necnon mesuag' &c —— in Ayshe & Thornfaveon in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' ——— Necnon vnu' ten' & mesuagiu' n'r'm cum suis p'tin' iacen' & existen' in parochia de Bromefeld in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' nup' prioratui de Taunton in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' modo dissolut' dudum spectan' & p'tinen' &c —— Acetiam aliud mesuagiu' in Bromefeld modo in tenura seu occupaco'e cuiusdam Joh'is Pylman ——— Necnon terr' in Kyngeshyll in parochia de Spaxton in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'co nup' prioratui de Taunton dudum spectan' &c ——— Insup'

totum illud man'iu' firmam & grang' n'ra' de Claveshey cum p'tin' in parochijs de Northepetherton & Bromefelde p'd'cis Necnon totum illud Capitale mesuagiu' domum situm & capitalem mancionem man'ij firme & grangie n'ror' de Claveshey p'd'ca modo siue nup' in tenura siue dimissione d'ci Will'i Portman vel assign' suor' nup' monast'io de Athelney in d'co Com' n'ro Som's modo dissolut' dudum spectan' & pertinen' Necnon boscum n'r'm vulgarit' vocat' Chalveshey Wood continen' p' estimaco'em decem acras t're & bosci ac boscum n'r'm vocat' Holesey Wood continen' p' estimaco'em quinq' acras t're & bosci iacen' & existen' in Northepetherton p'd'ca cum p'tin' d'co nup' monast'io de Athelney p'tinen' & spectan' —— Necnon om'ia & singula domos &c d'co man'io firme & grangie aliquo modo spectan' &c. Quequidem in Northepetherton Michelchurche Bromfeld Brymton Raiff Wollauington Mirelinche & Gotton d'co nup' Prioratui de Bucland dudum spectan' & p'tinen' sunt clari annui valoris viginti triu' librar' septemdecim solidor' & quatuor denarior' ——— Ac quequidem in Ayshe & Thornefaveon sunt clari annui valoris quadraginta septem solidor' & sex denar' ——— Et quequidem in Bromefeld & Spaxton —— quadraginta vnius solidor' & octo denar' ——— Et quequidem maner' &c. de Claveshey —— nouem librar' ——— Reddend' annuatim —— p' Northepetherton &c. triginta octo solidos —— p' Gotton nouem solidos vnu' denariu' & vnu' obulum —— p' Ayshe & Thornfaveon quatuor solidos & nouem denarios —— p' Bromefeld & Spaxton quatuor solidos & duos denarios —— p' Claveshey octodecim solidos In cujus rei &c. T. R. apud Westm' xiij die Octobr'.

No. XXIII.

[Abstract of Orig. 36 Hen. VIII., p. 8, rot. xvii.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm. Sciatis qd nos p' sum'a nonnigentar' nonaginta nouem librar' sexdecim solidor' & septem denarior' legalis monete Angl' &c. p' Alex'm Popham armig'um & Will'm Halley gen'osum ——— totum illud man'iu' & totam illam nup' Preceptoriam n'ram de Bucklond Pryours in Com' n'ro Som's' cum man'io de Halse ac om'ib' alijs man'ijs t'ris tentis p^tis pascuis pasturis

redditib' reu'sionib' s'uicijs & cet'is hereditamentis quibuscumq' iacen' & existen' in d'co Com' n'ro Som's' d'ce nup' P'ceptorie de Buckelond Priours p'tin' cum om'ib' alijs suis iurib' membris & p'tin' vniu'sis ——— modo vel nup' in tenura dimissione siue occupaco'e p'fati Will'i Halley vel assign' suor' Necnon Rectoriam & eccl'iam imp'priatam de Halse ac om'es & singulas alias Rectorias & eccl'ias imp'priat' n'ras d'ce Preceptorie p'tinen' ac om'es glebas decimas penciones porco'es oblaco'es obuenco'es fruct' commoditates p'ficua emolumenta & hereditamenta n'ra quecumq' tam spiritualia q'm temporalia cuiuscumq' sint gen'is ——— necnon aduocaco'es & iura pr'onat' Rectoriar' & eccl'iar' p'dict'. Ac etiam om'ia illa duo man'ia n'ra de Bodmescombe & Cove in Com' n'ro Deuon' cum om'ib' &c.——— Necnon aduocaco'es donaco'es p'sentaco'es &c. eccl'ie & Rectorie de Hethefeld & eccl'ie & R'torie de Halse ——— Necnon totum illum boscum & grouam n'ram voc' Wynsell Groue continen' p' estimaco'em quatuor acras t're & bosci ac totam illam boscum & grouam n'ram vocat' Peryfeld Groue continen' p' estimaco'em quatuor acras t're & bosci ac totam illam grouam n'ram vocat' Bowyers Grove continen' p' estimaco'em duodecim acras bosci & vasti ac totum illum boscum & vastum n'r'm vocat' Bodmescombe Wood continen' p' estimaco'em triginta quinq' acras bosci & vasti necnon duodecim acras t're ac sexdecim acras t're & viginti septem acras t're vocat' Vprynges of Wood —— parcell' d'ce nup' P'ceptorie de Bucklond Pryours —— Insuper dominiu' & man'ia' de Thurlebare &c. nup' Prioratui de Taunton spectan' &c. ——— Ac mesuagiu' &c. vocat' Playstrete &c. nup' Prioratui de Taunton &c. Ac redditum viginti & quatuor solid' nouem denar' & vnius obuli vocat' le Thurchetts exeun'de quibusdam t'ris &c. in Thurlebare ——— Et vnu' clausum bosci vocat' le Pryours Wood continen' tresdecim acras bosci —— Necnon totum maneriu' & dominiu' n'r'm de Tobrydge cum om'ib' suis iurib' &c. in parochia S'ci Jacobi iuxta Taunton Prioratui de Taunton spectan' &c.——Que quid'm man'iu' & nup' Preceptoria de Buckelond Priours vna cum d'co man'io de Halse ac om'ib' alijs man'ijs &c. sunt de claro annuo valore triginta vnius librar' nouemdecim solidor' & duor' denarior' decima inde nob' p' p'sentes reseruat' non deduct' et que quidem vicaria est de claro annuo valore quinq'

librar' nouemdecim solidor' quinque denarior' & vnius obuli decima inde nob' res'uata non deducta. Et que quidem Rectoria de Hethefeld &c. nouem librar' & quatuor solidor' decima inde &c. reseruat' non deduct'——P'ceptoriam de Bucklond Pryours ac Halse tenend' in capite p' s'uiciu' militare videl't p' vicesimam partem vnius feodi militis, ac reddend' &c. p' Buckelond & Halse tres libras tres solidos & vndecim denarios bone & legalis monete n're Angl' —— p' Tobrydge decem solidos & septem denarios——p' Thurlebare quatuordecim solidos & quinq' denarios —— ad festum S'ci Mich'is Arch'i singulis annis soluend' —— In cuius rei &c. T. R. apud Westm' xvj die ffebruarij anno R. sui tricesimo sexto.

No. XXIV.

[Abstract of Orig. 2 Edw. VI., p. 1, r. xlv.]

Rex om'ib' ad quos &c. salt'm Sciatis &c. p' sex libris tresdecim solidis & quatuor denarijs &c. —— concessim' dil'co nob' Will'o Halley gen'oso q'd ipse unu' capitale mesuagiu' suu' vocat' Buckelond Priors cum p'tin' ac duo gardina duo pomaria ducentas acras t're triginta sex acras prati sexaginta tresdecim acras pasture & duas acras t're aque coop'tas cum p'tin' in Buckland Priors & Coglod in Com' Som's' que de nob' tenent^r in capite ut dicit^r dare possit & concedere alienare confirmare aut cognosc'e p' finem in Cur' n'ra &c. dil'cis nob' Joh'i Cuffe & Joh'i Tynbery h'end' & tenend' sibi & hered' suis &c. Et eisdem Joh'i & Joh'i &c. de p'fato Will'o recip'e possint & ten'e &c. similit' licenciam dedim' ac dam' sp'alem Et vlt'ius concessim' &c. p'fatis Joh'i & Joh'i q'd ip'i Capitale mesuagiu' p'd'em ac om'ia & singula p'missa cum p'tin' dare concedere & recognosc'e possint p'fato Will'o & Margarete vx'i eius h'end' & tenend' eisdem Will'o & Margareta ac hered' &c. licenciam dedim' & dam' sp'alem ——— In cujus &c. T. R. apud Westm' xiij die Februarij.

T. H.

Remarks on some Ancient Sculptured Stones

STILL PRESERVED IN THIS ISLAND, AND ON OTHERS ONCE KNOWN TO EXIST, PARTICULARLY THOSE RECORDED TO HAVE STOOD IN THE CEMETERY OF THE ABBEY AT GLASTONBURY.

BY THE REV. H. M. SCARTH, M.A.

THE subject of ancient sculptured stones has of late attracted considerable attention; elaborate engravings of them have been published, and the inscriptions, where still preserved, carefully recorded, and many conjectures hazarded as to the origin of the ornaments which cover their surfaces.

The Spalding Club published in 1856 a very remarkable collection of drawings of sculptured stones found in Scotland; and these, ranging from early ages to mediæval times, afford a rich field for investigation, and in the course of time may lead to some very valuable results, when the attention of antiquaries shall have been more particularly bestowed on them. The stone crosses of the Isle of Man have also been treated of by the Rev. J. G. Cumming, and

engravings given, by which comparison may be made of Manx crosses with those of other places.* Mr. Petrie in his work on the round towers of Ireland gives information also of the crosses existing in that island, and the various careful engravings and notices in the *Journal of the Archæological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland*, and other similar publications, not to mention the abundant materials in the *Archæologia*, especially the late Mr. Kemble's valuable papers (vols. xxviii and xxix) and his comparison of Runic alphabets, all afford facility for elucidating a class of monuments, of which less notice has been taken than they deserve, and many of which have been destroyed for want of sufficient knowledge of their value. Moreover, from time to time portions of these crosses are brought to light, in digging graves in church-yards, enlarging the foundation of churches, or building schools, which are often overlooked, and suffered to be broken up, because their historical value is not known. A very remarkable instance of this kind came to my knowledge not long ago, but happily a fragment of the original has been saved from destruction, but the inscription which in all probability was upon the upright pillar has been destroyed.

I cannot help joining in the wish expressed by the writer of an able and very interesting article in the *Journal of the Archæological Association* for March, 1859, "On Ancient Sculptured Stones," that the different sculptured stones of England and Wales which have been separately engraved, and are now to be sought for in a variety of publications, could be brought together in a well-edited volume, since a careful comparison of their details would prove an immense assistance to antiquaries. There are,

* *Runic and other Monumental Remains of the Isle of Man*, by the Rev. J. G. Cumming, M.A. London, Bell and Daldy.

however, some stones of the highest interest which have not yet been accurately engraved, and the value of the inscriptions preserved in them not fully appreciated.*

Much is due to the labour of Mr. Haigh, who has lately directed attention to the very curious shaft of a cross preserved in the chancel of Hackness Church, near Scarbro', Yorkshire. In 1854, when I first saw this relique, and could distinguish inscriptions in three different characters —besides the Latin, which could be read without much difficulty—I found that little had been done to elucidate the monument. The Scarbro' guide had given a notice of it, with an imperfect engraving. The author of "Church Rides in the neighbourhood of Scarbro'" in treating of St. Peter's Church, Hackness, had described it as *St. Hilda's Monument*, considering it to be (in accordance with the opinion of the late Rev. Canon Harcourt) "a monumental stone erected to the *memory of the Lady St. Hilda*." The care, however, bestowed by Mr. Haigh upon these curious inscriptions has shewn that this is not the case, and that the fragments of stone are portions of one or more memorial crosses, erected to commemorate the more dis-

* The fragments of two Saxon crosses are preserved in the Museum of the Literary and Scientific Institution in Bath, which were dug up many years ago. Mr. Westwood directed attention to these, and sent drawings of them to the Archæological Institute, which are engraved in the 3rd vol. of the *Journal*, p. 356. They were preserved among the Roman Sculptures, and had been figured in Carter's *Ancient Architectural Remains of England*, pl. 8, fig. A, and described as "the *fragments of a Roman Temple* at Bath." The style of ornament is by no means Roman, but when compared with those ornaments which distinguish the Saxon crosses which still remain perfect, as well as with the ornaments of early Saxon MSS., leave the matter beyond doubt. These fragments are very interesting as being the only remnant of the Saxon Monastery once existing on the site of the present Abbey Church. See Warner's *History of Bath*, Britton's *Bath Abbey*, &c. "A.D. 676, Osric King of the Huiccii founded a Religious House in Bath, under Bretana, to whom he gave 100 manentes or tenants in the neighbourhood of the city, to assist in erecting the Convent."

tinguished members of the community of Hackness, but that the *name of St. Hilda does not occur.**

Mr. Boutell in his work on *Christian Monuments in England and Wales*, (London 1854) makes mention of this monument, as one of the fine specimens of upright stone memorial crosses, "the known existing remains of which are *very few in number*, while in their character they are generally somewhat uncertain and indefinite."

"Memorials of this class," says he, "almost invariably exhibit the symbol of the cross, accompanied with a profusion of interlaced and knotted carving, and they have some brief legend. A most interesting fragment of such a memorial is preserved in the chancel of Hackness Church, in Yorkshire, and may possibly commemorate St. Hilda herself, the foundress of an abbey at that place." He then refers, for his authority on this point, to the *Churches of Scarbro' and its Neighbourhood*, p. 44, where he says this curious relique is figured and fully described, in what he calls "a model guide book."

We will now examine what information we derive from this stone, and whether these suppositions are well founded; and here I must express the obligation I have been under to Mr. Haigh for his exertions in deciphering the inscriptions. Having called his attention more particularly to this relique, by sending him sketches and impressions in paper, taken on the spot, he afterwards obtained more complete impressions, and through them has been enabled to decipher what remains of three of the inscriptions. The key to the characters of the fourth has, I believe, not yet been found.

"This stone," says he, "is the *remains of a cross*, such

* See *Notes on the History of St. Begu and St. Hild.* Proctor, Hartlepool, 1856.

THE FOUR FACES OF AN ANCIENT SEPULCHRAL STONE,
FOUND AT HACKNESS, YORKSHIRE.

A & B are probably portions of two different Monuments.

as was usually in the seventh or following centuries erected to mark the graves of persons of distinction. Many such remain, and we have historical mention of others. This cross commemorates members of the religious community at Hackness, and as such, imperfect as it is, it is very important."

The uppermost stone has on the north side a knot; on the south a scroll; and on the east and west the following inscription:

OEDILBURGA BEATA AD SEMPER TE RECOLANT AMANTES PIE DEPOSCANT REQUIEM VERNANTEM SEMPITERNAM SANCTORUM PIA MATER APOSTOLICA.

Which may be rendered:—"Blessed Œdilburga, may they always remember thee, dutifully loving thee; may they ask for thee the verdant everlasting rest of the Saints, O Holy Mother, Apostolic."

The word "Apostolica" being separated from what precedes it, may be the commencement of another similar inscription, but this is conjectural, and I am inclined to think that it is only a continuation, as it will be seen that the next inscription ends with MATER AMANTISSIMA—each being epithets suited to the characters commemorated.

2. In the next inscription the stone is broken away, and only a portion of the letters can be made out. These, according to Mr. Haigh, are * * * ETB * * GA which would form part of the name *Huaetburga*, and the inscription be read as follows:

HUAETBURGA SEMPER TE AMENT MEMORES DOMUS TUAE TE MATER AMANTISSIMA.

Rendered thus:—"Huaetburga, may thy houses always love thee, remembering thee, most loving mother."

The latter part of the first inscription is carelessly cut, and therefore very difficult to read, but the reading given

by Mr. Haigh seems borne out by expressions in Bæda's Homilies. In both these inscriptions are several blunders in the cutting of the letters, some omitted or redundant, in some cases wrong letters used.

If, however, anything more can be made out, or any mistake has been committed in the reading, it is likely to be rectified, as the Society of Antiquaries have had drawings of this cross, as well as careful tracings of the inscriptions, submitted to them, so that it is hoped in time full justice may be done to these interesting remains which commemorate ladies of singular piety in a rude and barbarous age.

Of the persons herein commemorated, OEDILBURGA is doubtless the abbess who accompanied Æfled to visit King Aldfrid on his death bed, and who reported to Æddi, St. Wilfred's biographer, what transpired on the occasion, A.D. 705.* This Oedilburga appears to be twice mentioned in the Chronicles of John of Wallingford. Oedilburga, Hwætburga, and Ecgburga were three sisters, daughters of King Aldwulf, King of the East Angles, and successively abbesses of the monastery at Hackness, founded by their great aunt.

The name at the commencement of the second inscription is read by Mr. Haigh, HUÆTBURGA, an abbess of this name occurring in the epistles of St. Boniface. It appears from two letters, one written A.D. 717, the other after A.D. 723, that Huætburga had resigned her charge some time before the first was written, and gone on a pilgrimage to Rome.

It will be remarked that this inscription differs from the others, and seems to imply that she was then living, as there is no prayer for the repose of the departed soul, as in the other inscription.

* See *Notes on the History of St. Begu and St. Hild*, p. 30.

3. The lowest stone is defaced on the north side. On the south are the lower extremities of two monsters common on Saxon crosses. On the east are inscriptions in characters resembling Irish Oghams, and frequently found on Irish and Scotch monuments. These have been engraved in an essay on *Cryptic Inscriptions on the Cross at Hackness, in Yorkshire*, by the Rev. D. H. Haigh, who observes that it is cut upon the fragment which bears the name of Trecca, and therefore must be of the *eighth century*, and although it differs from Ogham inscriptions in wanting their essential characteristics of the stem line, and the vertical direction of the writing, it agrees with them in having its characters composed of simple strokes, varying in number from one to five, and of the groups thus composed there are five, two characters at its commencement which do not belong to any of these groups being possibly monograms. The intercourse which existed in the seventh century between the monasteries of England and Ireland will readily account for the existence of an Ogham inscription in one of these monasteries in England.

I may here observe with reference to these characters that a stone bearing Irish Oghams has lately been found in Devonshire, and a drawing of it was placed in the Museum of the Archæological Institute at Gloucester, July, 1860.

4. On the west side occurs the following inscription :

TRECEA ORA (PRO EO)
ABBATISSA
OEDILBURGA ORATE PRO

"Trecea pray for him, Abbess Oedilburga pray for"

Amongst the epistles of St. Boniface there is one from Trecca to St. Lul, St. Boniface's successor in the episcopate of Mayence, written about A.D. 756. This is probably the

person commemorated, and this inscription is therefore later than those before mentioned, and the fragment in which it occurs may have belonged to another monument.

And as the name Œdilburga follows Trecea, this is probably a different person from the abbess mentioned in the longer inscription.

5. On the other fragment are two lines of an inscription in Runic characters, much defaced, and carelessly cut, then some lines in a character resembling fir trees, but really a character of which an example has lately been found in the West of England, and then the word "ORA."

6. The other side has above the head of a female figure

BVGGA VIRGO

Two ladies of this name are mentioned in the epistles of S. Boniface, one the daughter of Centwine, King of the West Saxons who built a church within her father's dominions.

There are two letters written by St. Boniface to her, about A.D. 733; and one from Bregowine, Archbishop of Canterbury, to St. Lul, about A.D. 760, records her death. Another lady of this name is mentioned in a letter from the Abbess Cangith to St. Boniface, about A.D. 730. Mr. Haigh conjectures this to be the person whose name occurs in the Hackness monument. We have, therefore, in this interesting monument *three inscriptions in Latin*—one in Ogham characters; one in Runic; one in what appears to be Irish-Ogham; and these contain the following names, though more may be found when the two inscriptions as yet undeciphered shall have been made out:

1. Œdilburga.
2. Huetburga (?).
3. Trecea.
4. Œdilburga.
5. Bugga.

All of which are confirmed by letters of that age, and attesting the rank, worth, and position of the ladies here commemorated.

BEWCASTLE CROSS.

The cross at Bewcastle is 14 ft. 6 in. high, and stands in its original position. The western face has in it a figure of St. John the Baptist, pointing with his right hand to the Lamb of God, whose symbol rests on his left arm. Above this is an imperfect inscription; below it another in two lines, in Runic characters, containing the name of our Blessed Lord:

✠ GESSUS
CRISTTUS

with a majestic figure beneath in an arched recess, holding a scroll in his hand, and giving his blessing with the right, and trampling in Dœmons, represented by swine. Then follows the inscription in Runic, in nine lines, seven only of which are given in the account of it in the *Archæological Journal* (see vol. XI., p. 130, 1854). The reading of the nine lines is thus given by Mr. D. H. Haigh:

✠ THISSIGBEC
UNSETTÆH
WÆTREDEOM
GÆRF(LW)* OLD
UÆFTÆRBARÆ
UMBCYNING
ALCFRIDÆG
ICEGÆDHE
OSUMSAWLUM

* Read also, Æ B.

To be translated thus :

This Beacon of honor
set Hwætred
in the year of the great pestilence*
after the Ruler
after King Alefrid
Pray for their Souls,

An effigy in profile is beneath in an arched recess, holding a hawk in the left hand. The monument commemorates Alefrid, eldest son of King Oswin, who reigned in Deira from about A.D. 655 to 664. The inscriptions on the other sides, also in Runic characters, give the name of his father,

Oswic Cyning elt, *i.e.* Oswin King the elder.

Of his brother, Ecgfrid Cyning.

Of his uncle, Oslaac Cyning.

Of his step-mother, Eanflæd Cyningin.

Of his sister, Cyniswid.

And of his friend, Wilfrid, Preaster, elected Bishop of York, A.D. 664.

THE RUTHWELL CROSS,

DUMFRIESSHIRE.†

It is certain that at a very early period the pillar was erected in the church of Ruthwell, where it remained, and was held in veneration till the time of the Reformation, and even after that period was preserved from demolition to the middle of the 17th century. In 1642 an order was passed by the general assembly for the destruction of the ancient monument as idolatrous, dated July 27, at St.

* Read also, "and carved (this) monument."

† See Memoir by Rev. H. Duncan, D.D., Minister of Ruthwell, read to Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 10th Dec., 1832.

Andrews. The order seems to have been but partially and reluctantly obeyed. The column was thrown down and broken in pieces, and some of the emblems, as the crucifixion, were nearly obliterated, but after this it was allowed to lie in the church beside the ancient site of the altar, in the spot where it fell, and served for more than a century as seats to the congregation. In 1772 when seen by Mr. Pennant, it was still lying within the church, but soon after this removed to the church yard. In digging a deep grave a portion was found buried, viz. that containing the image of the Supreme Being, with the "Agnus Dei," and on the reverse a representation of the upper part of two human figures in the act of embracing. On applying this fragment it was found to coincide with the other portions. It had probably been surreptitiously buried along with the body of some votary, and probably for the purpose of concealment. The only fragment of the cross appearing to be irretrievably lost is what contained the *transverse arms* of the cross. The words in Latin still traceable are

INGRESSVS ANGELVS

inscribed on the bar immediately above the heads of the figures. On the left border on the fragment above the wing of the angel

TECVM BE

referring to the Vulgate, Luke I., 28.

"Et ingressus angelus ad eam dixit, ave gratia plena! Dominus TECUM; BENEDICTA tu in mulieribus."

The next compartment contains two figures, representing Christ in the act of curing a blind man. Legend:

ET PRAETERIENS VIDI * * * * A NATIBITATE,
ET S * * * * B INFIRMIT * * *

The first part a quotation from the Vulgate, John IX., v. 1.

"Et preteriens vidit hominem cæcum a nativitate et sanavit ab infirmitate." B being put for V in the word "nativitate."

Round the compartment containing the figure of the woman washing the feet of Jesus with her tears and wiping them with her hair the legend runs, (see Vulgate, Luke IX., 37, 38).

Also in another part MARIA ET JO, the rest obliterated, no doubt the flight into Egypt.

Over another compartment SCS PAVLVS; and on the border to the right ET A; and on the left side FREGERVNT PANEM IN DESERTO.

Above the compartment representing our Saviour trampling on the heads of two swine, on the transverse border:

Iη ΣXPΣ

on the right hand margin:

JVDEX ÆQVITATIS SERTO* SALVATOREM MVNDI

and on the left:

BESTIÆ ET DRACONES COGNOVERVNT INDE

"Jesus Christ the Judge of Righteousness, Him assuredly to be the Saviour of the world beasts and dragons knew from thence," alluding to the miracle of the devils (dracones) sent into the herd of swine (bestiæ).

The lower compartment contains the image of the Father standing on two globes or worlds, with the "Agnus Dei" in his bosom. Legend:

DORAMVS—the A being obliterated.

The sides of this cross are covered with Runic characters, and according to Mr. Kemble's explanation in the

* Serto for Certo (?).

Archæologia, vol. XXVIII., p. 349, contain a poem, for the interpretation of which I must refer to his elaborate and erudite paper. We can but deplore the early loss of one so deeply versed in Saxon antiquities, and so painstaking in his researches.

For further particulars concerning the Cross at Ruthwell, on the Scottish border, besides the *Archæol.* vol. 28, p. 349, see Hicke's *Thes. Gram. Isl.*, tab. IV., Gordon's *Itinerarium Septentrionale*, p. 160, also *Soc. of Antiq. of Scotland Archæol.* part II., 1834, from whence I have taken this account, and which contains accurate and beautiful drawings furnished by the Rev. Mr. Duncan to that Society. "Unhappily," observes Mr. Kemble, "no early copy was made of this, before the Presbyterian Iconoclasts, in 1642, caused the cross to be flung down, and have deprived us probably for ever of the hope of supplying the missing portion of the inscription."

But if this has been the fate of the Ruthwell monument, of which we have these interesting reliques preserved, we can but regret the entire loss of those once known to have stood in the cemetery of the Abbey of Glastonbury. I feel more anxious to call attention to the record that is left of these, because I am not without hope that some remains may yet be discovered; as, like the Ruthwell, the Hackness, and other crosses, portions may have been buried. The Runic cross at Lancaster was found thus, having been buried in the church yard. Fragments of crosses were discovered at Leeds, in 1838, for an account of which, with drawings, I must refer to a paper by the Rev. D. H. Haigh, of Erdington. This cross was found in the old parish church, and the fragments, when put together, present a very perfect monument. Might not some portions of the Glastonbury crosses yet be discovered?

Are no fragments yet traceable in any of the ancient walls of buildings or gate-posts in the neighbourhood? No search has ever yet been made, and no attention called to the subject; but the visits of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society seem to afford a very fitting opportunity to call attention to this subject, in the hope that something may result from it, at all events any inscribed fragments of stone which may in future be found in the neighbourhood should be carefully preserved, and not broken up, as is too often the case, before being shewn to some competent antiquary. Not without hope, I proceed to give an account of what once existed at Glastonbury.

William of Malmsbury gives an account of certain monuments at Glastonbury, thus:—"I would willingly relate what few if any are acquainted with, if I could make it out with certainty, the meaning of those pyramids which stand before the monks' cemetery, some feet from the old church. The tallest and nearest to the church consists of five stories, *i.e.* pannels (tabulatus) and is 28 feet high. This, though ready to fall with age, has some features of antiquity, which may be more easily read than understood. In the upper story (*i.e.* highest pannel) is a figure episcopally habited. In the second, one in the dress of a king, and these letters HER, SEXI, & BLISVVERH. In the third, only names—WEMCHESTE (read also Pencrest), BANTOMP, WINVVEGN (or Pinepegn). In the fourth—HATE (or Bate), WVLFREDE (or Pvlfred), and EANFLEDE. In the fifth and lowest, a figure and this inscription—LOGVVOR (read also Logor and Logpor), WESLIELAS (or Peas Licas), & BREGDENE, SVVELVVES (or Spelpes), HVVINGENDES (or Hipin Gendes), BERNE. The other pyramid is 18 feet high, and has four stories (pannels),

with these inscriptions—CENTWINE, HEDDE EPISCOPUS, & BREGORRED & BEORWALDE." Norgret, Bregorred, Berthwald, were Abbots. "What these mean I cannot positively determine, but I suspect that the bones of those whose names are here inscribed are lodged within in hollow stones (*i.e.* stone coffins). Logwor is certainly the person from whom Logworesbeoh was anciently named, now called Montacute. [Bregwen, from whom Brentacnolle, now Brentamerse.] Beorwalde was abbot after Hemgisel."*

The author describes only one side of each monument, and Mr. Haigh therefore conjectures "that on which there were images, and that, like the Bewcastle cross, they had figures on one side only, and on the other knots and scrolls which the historian did not think necessary to mention." This is the case also with one of the crosses at Hexham, which has scrolls on three sides, and on the fourth the crucifixion, with traces of an inscription beneath.† The inscription on the larger monument was in Anglo-Saxon, and contained Anglo-Saxon names, Wulfred and Eanfled, and others. Two are of historical interest, and enable us to determine the date of the erection of these monuments, viz. the commencement of the eighth century. Centwine was king of the West Saxons from A.D. 676 to A.D. 685, when he became a monk, and lived some years afterwards. St. Aldhelm intimates that he died A.D. 688. Hedde was bishop of Dorchester from A.D. 676 to A.D. 705. Beorn-

* Gough's *Camden*, vol. I., p. 82. See also, *Paper on Fragments of Crosses discovered at Leeds, in* 1838."

† A fine but stiffly carved Saxon cross was lately found among the remains of St. Mary's Church, Hexham. Dilston and Spital also yield such specimens. At Warden is a remarkable Saxon headstone, imitating the front of a Roman altar. See *Gen. Mag.*, Oct. 1860, pp. 401, 402.

wald was abbot of Glastonbury, contemporary with Hedde. Bregored appears to have been one of his predecessors in the abbacy. "Here then," observes Mr. Haigh, "were two of this class of monuments, recognised as sepulchral by William of Malmsbury, and probably erected early in the eighth century."

It cannot but be a source of regret to all lovers of historical remains that no other records of these monuments have been preserved. However, the drawings of the Ruthwell and Bewcastle crosses enable us pretty accurately to judge of the nature of these pyramids as they are called. And here we may observe how very timely and wise is the proposal of the Society of Antiquaries, put forth in 1858, viz. to collect copies of all existing monuments of British subjects, whether at home or abroad, and thus form a record for future ages. It must be apparent how much more enduring than stone or marble is a published account —how much more likely to escape destruction? We should have lost all knowledge of the Glastonbury crosses had it not been for the record of William of Malmsbury.

In conclusion I would offer a remark on these ancient Christian memorials. They are among the few traces left us of Saxon Christianity. Some portions of churches and towers, and a few entire buildings, can be assigned to the Saxon era. The small church at Bradford-on-Avon, now a school, is among the few vestiges of Saxon Christianity in the West of England. The remains of a Saxon cross have lately been discovered in restoring the church at Kelston, near Bath.

That these crosses were very early erected, is plain from history; and that they had their origin in the dedication of pagan memorials to Christian purposes, is also on record, for St. Patrick so dedicated pagan monuments to the service

of the true God.* Adamnan, in his life of St. Columba, has preserved two instances of the erection of stone crosses at Iona. St. Columba, disdaining the luxury of straw, used to lie on a stone, and for a pillow had another stone, "which at present," says Adamnan, "stands for *a title* as a monument at his sepulchre." Simeon of Durham has a chapter, "De Ethelwold Episcopo et cruce lapideo quam fecit." Ethelwold caused his name to be cut on this cross, which was much ornamented by the labour of the workman, as a memorial of himself. When Lindisfarne was ravaged by the Danes, the top of the cross was broken off, but afterwards united together. The cross used to be carried about with the body of St. Cuthbert, being held in reverence by the Northumbrians. In the days of Simeon of Durham, whose history ends A.D. 1096, it stood in the cemetery of Durham cathedral, and is probably referred to by Leland, as standing at the head of a tomb in the church yard on the south side of the minster:—"It is a crosse seven feet long, that hath had an inscription of divers rownes yn it, but the scripture cannot be red. Some say that the crosse was brought out of the holy church yard at Lindisferne." †

This cross was probably the type from whence most of the crosses of Northumbria, as the Hackness cross, took their model. Having first originated out of the blind idolatry with which stones placed upright were worshipped in pagan times, these stones became under Christian training suitable memorials of the departed, and assumed at length the figure of that holy symbol of our faith ever reverenced by Christians. They were suitably inscribed

* See Pinkerton's *Vitæ Sanctorum Sotiæ*, lib. I., c. 46, pp. 93, 94, 180, 181.

† See *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, printed for the Spalding Club, 1856.

and ornamented with figures which the grotesque imaginations of the northern races loved to embody in their works of art, and have become to us memorials by no means inelegant of the piety and devotion of our English forefathers.

The Inland Mollusca of Somersetshire.

BY THE REV. A. M. NORMAN, M.A.

THE varied surface, the great prevalence of the limestone formations, and the southern position of Somersetshire, must be considered the causes of its great productiveness in molluscan life. The dense woods that clothe the hills; the deep clefts in their sides forming rocky chasms, deep ravines, and damp mossy coombes; and the rich intersecting valleys, form productive breeding places for the land species: while the sluggish waters of the weedy rhines, and the more rapid current of the wider streams, afford throughout the extensive moors an abundant supply of food, and secure breeding places for the water species.

We are only aware of two lists of Somersetshire mollusca as yet published. The first of these is *A List of the Freshwater and Land Shells occurring in the environs of Bristol, with observations*, by J. S. Miller, Esq., A.L.S., published in the year 1822, in the third volume of the new series of the *Annals of Philosophy*. This list contained sixty species, from which number three, viz., Planorbis nautileus, Turbo

Everetti, and Valvata minuta, must be deducted, since two are varieties, and the last the young, of other species. The second list was read before the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society, at Weston, in 1851, by the Rev. W. R. Crotch, in a paper *On the Recent Plants and Shells of the Weston district.* It embraced forty species.

One hundred and six species are included in the present catalogue. Deducting five as perhaps erroneously recorded, the remaining number of Somersetshire mollusca will be found to exceed those hitherto met with in any county or district. Mr. Alder's *Catalogue of the Mollusca of Northumberland and Durham* includes ninety-three inland species; and our own *Notes on the Oxfordshire Shells*, published in the *Zoologist* of 1853 and 1857, ninety-five species. We are not aware of any other catalogues which exceed eighty species.

It is not only, however, the number of forms, but also the great productiveness of the individuals, which makes the profusion of molluscan life in Somersetshire so remarkable. Perhaps three or four species may yet be added from the eastern and south-western districts of the county.

The nomenclature adopted (with one or two exceptions) in this catalogue, is that of Forbes and Hanley's *British Mollusca.* The synonyms added are the names that were employed in Miller's *Catalogue of British Shells.*

We have adopted Clifton into this list for the convenience of naturalists resident in Bristol. Pupa minutissima however is the only shell which takes its position here from a Gloucestershire and not a Somersetshire locality.

A few remarks on the characteristic species of the several kinds of habitat may prove interesting. Of the land mollusca, *Gardens and Hedgebanks* afford Arion hortensis, Limax agrestis, cinereus, and Sowerbii, Testacella Maugei,

Helix aspersa, nemoralis, hortensis, arbustorum, Cantiana (hedgebanks only) hispida, and rufescens. *Woods* produce Arion empiricorum (coloured varieties), Limax arborum, Vitrina pellucida, Helix fusca, Zonites (all), Bulimus Lackhamensis, Clausilia laminata. Among *moss and decaying leaves*, especially those of the beech, are to be found Arion flavus (?), Helix fulva and aculeata, Zonites (all), Azeca tridens, Balæa fragilis, Carychium minimum, Acme fusca, and several of the Pupæ. *Dry hills and the sand-hills of the coast* abound with Helix virgata, caperata, and ericetorum, and Bulimus acutus; the last confined to the sand hills. Among *Limestone rocks, heaps of stones, and walls* there are found Helix lapicida, pulchella, umbilicata, and rotundata, Pupa secale, umbilicata, pygmæa, &c., Bulimus obscurus, Clausilia nigricans, and Cyclostoma elegans. *The roots of short grass* give us Pupa muscorum, pygmæa, &c., Achatina acicula, and Helix pygmæa; and lastly, in *wet marshy spots*, may be found Arion empiricorum var. ater, Limax brunneus, Zonites nitidus, Succinea putris and Pfeifferi.

Of the freshwater mollusca *running streams and larger rhines* contain Unio tumidus and pictorum, Anodonta cygnea, Pisidium amnicum, pulchellum, Henslowianum, and cinereum, Dreissena polymorpha, Neritina fluviatilis, Valvata piscinalis and cristata, Bithinia ventricosa, Limneus auricularius, Ancylus fluviatilis and oblongus, and Planorbis albus. The *rhines* produce in great abundance Pisidium pusillum, Cyclas cornea, Paludina vivipara (rare), Bithinia tentaculata, Physa fontinalis, Planorbis corneus, carinatus, marginatus, vortex, spirorbis, and contortus, Limnæus peregor, stagnalis, truncatulus, and palustris. *Ponds* shelter in their still waters many of the rhine species, and in addition Cyclas calyculata, Pisidium obtusale and nitidum, Physa hypnorum, Planorbis imbricatus, glaber,

and nitidus. Conovulus denticulatus, var. myosotis, is confined to the Avon below Bristol; and Rissoa subumbilicata and ventrosa are only to be met with in the salt marshes.

The waters of the Bristol channel have their saltness so much diluted by the influx of rivers, and so strongly impregnated with mud, that but few marine mollusca would desire to take up their abode in them. If ever a catalogue of the marine species is prepared it must be after the investigation of the lower part of the channel. In the more northern portion we have only met with about fifteen species on the shore, and there is nothing to induce a naturalist to incur the expence of dredging.

It only remains that we should thank those gentlemen who have given us assistance in the preparation of this paper, and to express a hope that any naturalist who may be able to contribute materials towards a future supplement, should such be ever needed, will kindly communicate with us.

Class ACEPHALA.

Div. LAMELLIBRANCHIATA.

Fam. CYCLADIDÆ.

Genus Cyclas. Bruguière.

C. cornea, Linnæus. Tellina cornea, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 59. Abundant. The var. *β* of Jenyns' monograph (Tellina stagnicola of Sheppard) is to be met with in the rhines of the valley between Portishead and Clevedon.

C. calyculata, Draparnaud. Tellina lacustris, Mat. and

Rack., Trans. Lin. Soc., vol. viii., p. 60. The typical calyculata is common in a pond on Clevedon hill, not far from the Royal Hotel.

Genus Pisidium. Pfeiffer.

P. obtusale, Pfeiffer. In a ditch near the Pill, Clevedon, and also in the pond with the last. The more swollen forms of P. pusillum are constantly mistaken for this species. The Clevedon shells have been examined by Mr. Jenyns.

P. pusillum, Turton. Tellina pusilla, Dillwyn's Cat. of Recent Shells. Common in grassy ditches, ponds, and rhines. We have taken it of very large size in the moor that stretches from Clevedon towards Portishead.

P. cinereum, Alder. A few specimens taken in Kenn Moor are considered by Mr. Alder to belong to the more ventricose variety of this species. Mr. Clark has met with it at Bath.

P. nitidum, Jenyns. In a large pond by the side of the railway, at the third (?) bridge from Clevedon.

P. pulchellum, Jenyns. In the larger and clearer of the rhines, not uncommon. Fine in West Mead Rhine, Yatton.

P. Henslowianum, Sheppard. A specimen or two in the "river," at Clevedon. This and the last must be united, as has already been suggested by Messrs. Jenyns and Jeffreys. We have met with specimens in company, some with the "lamelliform projection" well developed, some with scarcely perceptible traces of it, and some again with the umbones presenting no irregularity. These specimens agreed in all other respects.

P. amnicum, Müller. Tellina amnica, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Lin. Soc., vol. viii., p. 60. In rivers and streams, widely distributed throughout the county.

Fam. UNIONIDÆ.

Genus UNIO. Retzius.

U. pictorum, Linnæus. Mya pictorum, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 38. "The Kennet and Avon."—Forbes and Hanley. We have never seen specimens, but are informed by Mr. Russell, of the Bath Literary Institute, that the species is very common in the Avon.

U. tumidus, Retzius. "The Unio of the river Avon and of the Kennet and Avon Canal is the typical U. tumidus with its black skin, and the flatter varieties rayed with yellow and green. Twenty years ago, after a flood, I met with it about two miles from Bath, cast in large quantities on a river-side meadow; but I have seen none since."—Mr. Wm. Clark, in litt. "The Avon and the Kennet."—Forbes and Hanley.

Genus ANODONTA. Brugière.

A. cygnea, Linnæus. Mytilus anatina, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Lin. Soc., vol. viii. Common. The variety Avonensis (Mytilis Avonensis, Mont. Test. Brit., p. 172) was found, we believe, in the Salisbury and Hampshire Avon, not the Bath and Bristol river.

Fam. MYTILIDÆ.

Genus DREISSENA. Van Beneden.

D. polymorpha, Pallas. The late Mr. Hugh Strickland, in a paper, published in Loudon's Mag. Nat. Hist., new series, vol. ii. (1838), p. 361, on the "Naturalisation of Dreissena in England," states that "this shell has lately been 'planted' by Mr. Stutchbury, of Bristol, in some waters near that place." So prolific a species once planted is hardly likely to have become extinct.

Class GASTEROPODA.

Div. PROSOBRANCHIATA.

Fam. NERITIDÆ.

Genus Neritina. Lamarck.

N. fluviatilis, Linnæus. Nerita fluviatilis, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Lin. Soc., vol. viii., p. 225. "In pools near the Avon."—Miller. "Bridgwater and Weston-super-Mare."—Rev. W. R. Crotch.

Fam. PALUDINIDÆ.

Genus Paludina. Lamarck.

P. Listeri, Forbes and Hanley. The Rev. W. R. Crotch and the Curator of the Bristol Museum inform us that they have taken this species near Weston-super-Mare. The latter met with it, we believe, near the railway station.

Genus Bithinia. Gray.

B. tentaculata, Linnæus. Helix tentaculata, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Lin. Soc., vol. viii., p. 220. Abundant.

B. Leachii, Sheppard. In the larger and clearer streams. Abundant and fine in West Mead Rhine, Yatton.—A. M. N. Weston-super-Mare.—Rev. W. R. Crotch.

Genus Valvata. Müller.

V. piscinalis, Müller. Turbo fontinalis, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Lin. Soc., vol. viii., p. 168. Common in similar localities to the last.

V. cristata, Müller. Turbo cristatus, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Lin. Soc., vol viii., p. 169. Valvata minuta, Draparnaud (the young?). Very local. A few specimens from a ditch in Kenn Moor; also near Wells.—A. M. N.

Bath.—Mr. Clark. Weston-super-Mare and Taunton.—Rev. W. R. Crotch.

Fam. LILLORINIDÆ.

Genus Rissoa. Frèmenville.

R. ventrosa, Montagu. In marvellous abundance in a ditch near the Pill, Clevedon, the water of which is but very slightly impregnated with salt.

R. subumbilicata, Montagu. Rissoa ulvæ, var., Forbes and Hanley, vol. viii., p. 142. This species (?) [vide Jeffreys in Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., third series, vol. viii., (1859) p. 180] is very abundant on the mud flats, and at river-mouths all along the coast of Somerset.

We have not met with the true Rissoa ulvæ in the county. These two species of the genus Rissoa, belonging to the Hydrobia section, have been admitted into this catalogue because they hold a doubtful position between the artificially divided Fluviatile and Marine mollusca.

Div. PULMONIFERA.

Fam. LIMACIDÆ.

Genus Arion. Férussac.

A. empiricorum, Férussac. On the low grounds and in damp situations this Arion is always black; in drier situations, hills, and woods, it varies greatly in colour.

A. flavus, Müller. We have taken an Arion, which we believe to have been this species, among the ruins of Walton old church, and likewise in Brockley Coombe.

A. hortensis, Férussac. Common in gardens, on hedge-banks, and in fields.

Genus Limax. Linnæus.

L. cinereus, Müller. The striped and spotted varieties common. We met with a variety in Cleeve Coombe remarkably distinct, and we believe hitherto unrecorded. It was altogether pitchy black, without spot or marking of any kind, and fully six inches long. The var. *a* of Baron Férussac, in the *Histoire Naturelle des Mollusques Terrestres et Fluviatiles*, comes nearest to it. That variety is described as "Ater, carinâ albâ."

L. arborum, Bouchard Chantereux. On trees and rocks in Goblin, Cleeve, and Brockley Coombes, and some of the glens running up into the Mendips near Wells.

L. agrestis, Müller. Abundant everywhere.

L. flavus, Linnæus. Bristol and Bath.—Capt. Brown.

L. brunneus, Draparnaud. Among heaps of stones by the side of the lane which runs parallel with the cliff from Walton to Portishead; and among decaying vegetation by the side of a rhine in Portishead Moor. A remarkable peculiarity in this slug, noticed by Dr. Johnson but omitted by Forbes and Hanley, at once distinguishes the species from all the varieties of agrestis, as well as our other British species. This peculiarity consists in the great length of the neck, or space between the tentacles and the anterior margin of the shield. Another good characteristic of this species is the unusually narrow foot.

L. Sowerbii, Férussac. At Clevedon in gardens, and in the copse between Upper Clevedon and the beach.—A. M. N. Clifton.—Mr. W. Webster.

Fam. TESTACELLIDÆ.

Genus Testacella. Cuvier.

T. Maugei, Férussac. Forty-six years ago this most interesting mollusk was found in what were then Messrs.

Sweet and Miller's, but which are now Messrs. Garraway and May's, nursery grounds at Clifton. From that time to the present it has thriven and propagated freely in its original locality, and has likewise been introduced with plants into many other gardens in the west of England. In this way it has established itself at Bath, at Brislington, at Clevedon (in the gardens of Sir Arthur Elton, and those of Lee), and at Taunton; and thus may be considered to have made good its claim for admission into our list of British mollusca.

T. haliotoidea, Draparnaud, has been recorded as occurring in several localities in the west of England. In all instances in which we have had opportunity of examining the specimens, the species has proved to be T. Maugei. The Testacella also which was figured and described as T. scutulum in *The Naturalist*, vol. viii., (1853) p. 179, as found at Taunton, is evidently not the T. scutulum, but T. Maugei.

Fam. HELICIDÆ.

Genus Vitrina. Draparnaud.

V. pellucida, Müller. Widely distributed but not abundant.

Genus Zonites. Gray.

Z. cellarius, Müller. Helix nitens, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Lin. Soc., vol. viii., p. 198. Common among damp heaps of stones and moss in woods. Very fine in Brockley Coombe.

Z. alliaria, Miller. First described in Miller's *List of the Freshwater and Land Shells occurring in the environs of Bristol*. Common in woods, on hedge-banks, and under stones.

Z. nitidulus, Draparnaud. In similar situations to the last, and like it very common among decaying beech leaves.

Z. purus, Alder. Local. Among rotting leaves at the foot of Elton Hill, Clevedon, at Wrington, near Wells, and in Brockley Coombe.

Z. radiatulus, Alder. At roots of stunted grass growing in the crevices of limestone rocks on Elton Hill, and in similar situations on the eastern scarp of Clevedon Hill.—A. M. N. Clifton.—Mr. W. Webster.

Z. nitidus, Müller. Damp situations. Under stones on the grass in Kenn and Portishead Moors ; rare.—A. M. N. Weston-super-Mare.—Rev. W. R. Crotch.

Z. crystallinus, Müller. Helix crystallina, Müller, Hist. Verm., pt. 2, p. 23. Frequent and widely distributed among decaying leaves, and under stones lying upon grass.

Genus Helix. Linnæus.

H. aspersa, Müller. Only too abundant. We have taken a reversed specimen at Clevedon; and also examples upon the cliffs towards Ladies' Bay which have the spire produced, so that the shell assumes the form of Paludina vivipara, Linn.

H. pomatia, Linnæus. Rare at Stapleton.—Miller. Probably introduced, and now apparently extinct.

H. arbustorum, Linnæus. Frequent, though local. We have taken it in the lane leading from Clevedon to Clapton; under heaps of stones on Strawberry Hill, Clevedon ; upon the banks of the canal at Bath ; among nettles at Cheddar Cliffs ; and hedge-banks near Axbridge.

H. Cantiana, Montagu. Brislington is the only locality in Somersetshire in which we know this shell to occur. It was first taken there by Mr. Miller.

H. nemoralis, Linnæus. Common, but not so varied in painting as it is found in many other parts of England. We have met with a very rare variety at Wells, which is orange with five paler yellow bands, and has the lip and throat peach-coloured.

H. hortensis, Müller. This species is undoubtedly distinct from the last, which although occasionally found with the lip peach-coloured, or even white (Scarborough), can never be confounded with the smaller and more delicate shell of Helix hortensis, which moreover *never has the calcareous* (and usually coloured) *deposit of the columella*, which is so marked a character in H. nemoralis. H. hortensis is abundant in Somersetshire.

Var. *hybrida*, Poviet. Abundant and variously coloured, at Wells. The typical bandless form at Wrington, on Clevedon Hill, at Kenn, and on hedgebanks at Tickenham.

H. virgata, Da Costa. Very abundant, especially on dry hills and the sea-coast. It is very varied in colouring on the sand hills. Near Burnham one variety is found wholly deep chocolate brown; another brown with a narrow white band running round the base of the whorls, and more or less lineated round the umbilicus; a third resembles the last, but has in addition to the basal white fillet, a row of white spots round the upper margin of the whorls; a fourth is white, with one, two, or three interrupted spiral bands. Intermediate specimens, as well as the more common varieties, are also to be found. On the sand-hills at Berrow these varieties are replaced by a fifth which is milk white, with the exception of the mouth and apex, which are rufous. In Tickenham churchyard the milk-white variety with transparent bands is to be found. We have taken a reversed specimen on the sea wall near Clevedon. Mr. Miller curiously remarks, "The

abundance of this species in a field at Torkington a few months ago occasioned the report that it had rained snails."

H. caperata, Montagu. Common on dry hills and a calcareous soil, throughout the county.

H. ericetorum, Müller. Somewhat local. Abundant on the sides of the trenches at Cadbury Camp, and of the Mendips near Wells. Also on Durdham Down, Wrington Hill, and other localities.

H. lapicida, Linnæus. Common, but confined apparently to the limestone rocks. Near Wells; Cheddar, Wrington, Clevedon, and Elton Hills; Cadbury Hill, Yatton; Cleeve Toot; St. Vincent's Rocks; Axbridge, &c.

H. rufescens, Pennant. Common. Varies according to habitat. Those among brambles and in hedges are mostly large and horn-coloured; while specimens from drier situations are smaller, deeper in colour, and more elevated in the spire.

Var. *albida*, Gray, is found in profusion among a heap of stones lying by an old lime-kiln near Clevedon.

H. hispida, Linnæus. Abundant in gardens and hedge-banks, and among heaps of stones and nettles, varying in colour from white to deep chocolate brown.

Var. *concinna*, Jeffreys. In gardens at Yatton and Clevedon, in Walton old churchyard, and at Wrington.—A. M. N. Clifton.—Mr. W. Webster.

Var. *depilata*, Alder. Rare on Cadbury Hill, Yatton, and Ebbor Rocks, near Wells.

H. sericea, Draparnaud. We have met with two or three worn examples among the rejectamenta of the River Avon, below the Hotwells.

H. aculeata, Müller. We have taken this species under the bark of a fallen tree in Brockley Coombe;

and Mr. Clark informs us that he has met with it on Beachen Cliff, and in the woods of Claverton Down, near Bath.

H. fulva, Müller. Rare. Small under stones lying among grass on Elton Hill, Clevedon, and among rushes in Walton Moor. Fine in decaying leaves at Brockley Coombe, and near Wells.

H. fusca, Montagu. Helix subrufescens, Miller, Ann. Phil., vol. viii., (1822) p. 376. Described under the name of Helix subrufescens by Mr. Miller, who had taken specimens near Bristol.

H. pulchella, Müller. Helix paludosa, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 193. More common, on the limestone, under stones, in crevices of rocks, and at roots of grass.

Var. *costata*, Müller. Abundant and fine among the decaying mortar of a limestone wall near Tickenham.—A. M. N. Clifton.—Mr. W. Webster.

H. rotundata, Müller. Helix radiata, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 199. Common. Sometimes the spire is much raised, and the whorls even partially separated. We have met with greenish-white transparent specimens at Clevedon, and received the same variety from Mr. Webster, who had taken it at Clifton.

H. umbilicata, Montagu. Common in the crevices of limestone rocks on Clevedon and Elton Hills; Cleeve Toot; St. Vincent's Rocks; Wrington Hill; Cheddar Cliffs, &c.; and often exceedingly abundant among the rotten mortar of old walls, as behind the Royal Hotel at Clevedon, and in many spots on the Mendips.

H. pygmæa, Draparnaud. Not common. At roots of grass on Clevedon and Elton Hills.

Genus Bulimus. Scopoli.

B. acutus, Müller. Abundant on the sand-hills along the coast between Burnham and Weston.

B. Lackhamensis, Montagu. Helix Lackhamensis, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 212. This fine species has been taken in the neighbourhood of Bristol.—Messrs. Miller and Jeffreys. On Beachen Cliff, half-a-mile from Bath; and again in the woods of Claverton Down, two miles from Bath.—Mr. W. Clark. In a little wood by the canal, between Bradford and Freshfield.—Mr. Lukis. Among burnt gorse bushes near the bottom of a ravine to the left hand of the cliffs at Cheddar, and about a mile and a half from the village.—Rev. W. H. Hawker. Among ivy, on the hedgebank of the road leading from Axbridge to Cheddar, about three-quarters of a mile from the former place.—A. M. N. Although nowhere to be met with in any numbers, Bulimus Lackhamensis is thus seen to be widely distributed throughout Somersetshire.

B. obscurus, Müller. Helix obscura, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 212. Common among stones, and in woods; more abundant on the limestone formations.

B. Goodallii, Miller. Helix Goodallii, Miller in Ann. of Philos., iii., (1822) 376. This species, described by Mr. Miller from specimens taken in pine beds at the Clifton nurseries, has continued to abound in that locality up to the present time. It cannot be regarded, however, otherwise than as exotic, since it is not found beyond the range of hothouses.

Genus Pupa. Lamarck.

P. umbilicata, Draparnaud. Turbo muscorum, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 182. Very common.

A fine produced variety occurs among the ruins of Walton Castle. We have met with the variety edentula on a wall near Tickenham. The white hyaline variety occurs at Ebbor Rocks, near Wells, but is remarkably local, and we have taken a specimen or two at Clevedon.

P. muscorum, Linnæus. Common among limestone rocks, at roots of grass, and under stones. We have met with examples in which the tooth was altogether absent.

P. secale, Draparnaud. Turbo juniperi, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 132. Abundant among limestone rocks, Clifton, Wrington, Yatton, Clevedon, Wells, Cheddar, &c.

P. edentata, Draparnaud. Has been taken by Mr. Jeffreys in the county.

P. minutissima, Hartmann. Durdham Down.—Mr. Jeffreys.

P. pygmæa, Draparnaud. Common under stones lying on grass, and at roots of grass growing in crevices of limestone rocks. We have met with the four-toothed variety (*British Mollusca*. pl. cxxx., fig. 5) at Clevedon. This is, however, very different from the Pupa alpestris of Alder, which is certainly a distinct species.

P. substriata, Jeffreys. Turbo sexdentata, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 183. Turbo sexdentata is mentioned by Miller as found at Leighdown; but as no other Pupa of the Vertigo section is recorded, perhaps P. pygmæa was mistaken for this species.

P. antivertigo, Draparnaud. Among the rejectamenta of the River Avon.—A. M. N. At Bristol and Bath, under ash boughs that have lain long on the ground.—Mr. Jeffreys in F. and H.

P. pusilla, Müller. Rejectamenta of the Avon.—Mr. Jeffreys.

Genus Balea. Prideaux.

B. fragilis, Draparnaud. Very local. Under moss on trees in Small Coombe (?) Wood, Bath; among decaying leaves in the interstices of a dry wall on Walton Down, near Clevedon; also in Brockley Coombe, and near Wells.

Genus Clausilia. Draparnaud.

C. laminata, Montagu. Turbo laminatus, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 179. Brockley Coombe, Wrington, Ebbor, and near Clevedon. The hyaline variety occurs in the same locality as H. rufescens var. albida.—A. M. N. Leigh Woods.—Mr. W. Webster.

C. biplicata, Montagu. Stated by Miller to exist in the neighbourhood of Bristol.—Forbes and Hanley.

C. nigricans, Maton and Rackett. Turbo nigricans, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 180. Turbo Everetti, Miller, Ann. Philos., new series, vol. iii., (1822) p. 377. Very abundant, and variable. The spire consists of from nine to thirteen volutions. The small form, which is not uncommon among the rejectamenta of the Avon, and on the Mendip Hills near Axbridge, was described by Miller as a species under the name of Turbo Everetti.

Genus Zua. Leach.

Z. lubrica, Müller. Helix lubrica, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 213. Common in damp places among moss, stones, &c.

Genus Azeca. Leach.

A. tridens, Pulteney. Brockley Coombe is the only Somersetshire locality known for this shell. It should be looked for more especially on the south side among damp moss.

Genus Achatina. Lamarck.

A. acicula, Müller. Buccinum terrestre, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 139. Roots of grass, Clevedon Hill; Mendips, near Wells; and among rejectamenta of the River Avon.—A. M. N. Taunton.—Rev. W. R. Crotch. On Leigh and Clifton Downs.—Miller.

Genus Succinea. Draparnaud.

S. putris, Linnæus. Helix succinea, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 218. Abundant. Occasionally very large in Kenn Moor.

S. Pfeifferi, Rossmässler. Perhaps distinct from the last, and a much scarcer shell. Found in ditches along the sea margin near Clevedon, and a few other places.

Fam. LIMNÆADÆ.

Genus Physa.

P. fontinalis, Linnæus. Bulla fontinalis, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 126. Widely distributed throughout the county, but not generally common.

P. hypnorum, Linnæus. Bulla hypnorum, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 127. Very local. Dulcot, near Wells; Yatton; ditch near the Pill, Clevedon; Weston-super-Mare. More common in the spring months, and often found in grassy ditches which are quite dried up in the summer.

Genus Planorbis. Müller.

P. corneus, Linnæus. Very abundant in the Moor ditches; but rare, if not altogether absent, at higher levels. It delights in peaty water.

P. albus, Müller. Helix alba, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 192. Scarce. Found in a few

rhines of Kenn Moor, and in a pond near Wells, also at Weston-super-Mare.

P. glaber, Jeffreys. "My Planorbis glaber (P. lævis of Alder) was first found at Bristol. It is the Planorbis Rossmassleri of Continental writers."—Mr. Jeffreys in litt. We have taken it fine and in great abundance in a large pond by the railway side, at the third (?) bridge from Clevedon.

P. nautileus, Linnæus. Turbo nautileus, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 169. Planorbis imbricatus, Drap., Moll. Fer. et Fluv. France, p. 44. Common in small ponds, especially during the spring months. Occasionally met with in the moor ditches.

P. carinatus, Müller. Much less common than the succeeding species, in company with which it is found.

P. marginatus, Helix planorbis, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 189. Abundant in the rhines of all the moors, and common in ponds and ditches.

P. vortex, Linnæus. Helix vortex, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 189. Very common on the whole of the western side of the county in rhines and ponds.

P. spirorbis, Linnæus. Helix spirorbis, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 191. Much less common than the last, and more local in its distribution. Extremely abundant in ditches near the mouth of the river at Wick.

P. contortus, Linnæus. Helix contortus, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 191. Very abundant in rhines, ponds, and small ditches. A large proportion of the specimens from a small pond near Walton old Church are distorted, having the whorls irregularly coiled, and often folded over each other.

P. nitidus, Müller. Helix fontana, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 193. In clear ponds among

decaying leaves. In a pond at Yatton, and another at Weston-in-Gordano.

Genus Limnæus. Draparnaud.

L. peregeri, Müller. Very abundant and variable. In brackish water the mouth is often greatly expanded.

L. acutus, Jeffreys. Among rejectamenta of the river at Uphill.

L. auricularius, Linnæus. Helix auricularia, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii. p. 221. Taunton.—Rev. W. R. Crotch. In the Froom.—Miller.

L. stagnalis, Linnæus. Very abundant in rhines, ditches and ponds. We found a reversed specimen in Kenn Moor.

L. truncatalus, Müller. Helix fossaria, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii. p. 217. Common on mud at the sides of rhines, ponds and rivers.

L. glaber, Müller. Messrs. Forbes and Hanley write of this Limnæus "It occurs in several of our southern counties, especially in Wilts and Somerset." We have never succeeded in finding it, and it should probably be looked for on the eastern side of the county.

L. palustris, Linnæus. Helix palustris, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 216. Frequent and widely distributed.

Genus Ancylus. Geoffroy.

A. fluviatilis, Müller. Patella lacustris, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 232. West Mead Rhine, Yatton, and the river at Clevedon. A pure white variety in a stream of water at the foot of Dulcot Hill, near Wells.

A. oblongus, Lightfoot. Patella oblonga, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 233. Local. The Avon, near Bath.—A. M. N. In the River Froom.—Miller. Bridgwater. Rev. W. R. Crotch.

Fam. AURICULIDÆ.

Genus Conovulus. Lamarck.

C. denticulatus, Montagu. Voluta denticulata, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 130. The variety *myosotis*, Drap., of this shell is abundant in the Avon below the Hotwells.

Genus Carychium. Müller.

C. minimum, Müller. Turbo carychium, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 184. Common, especially among decaying beech leaves, Clifton, Yatton, Wrington, Brockley Coombe, Clevedon, Wells, &c.

Fam. CYCLOSTOMIDÆ.

Genus Cyclostoma. Montfort.

C. elegans, Müller. Turbo elegans, Mat. and Rack., Trans. Linn. Soc., vol. viii., p. 167. Common among limestone rocks, Clifton Bath, Yatton, Wrington, Brockley, Cheddar, Axbridge, Wells, Weston-super-Mare, Clevedon, &c.

Genus Acme. Hartmann.

A. lineata, Draparnaud. We have found this shell among the rejectamenta of the Avon below Bristol, and our friend Mr. Jeffreys has procured a reversed specimen from the same source. Mr. Cutler, who lately was a dealer in Natural History specimens at Bath, has informed us that he has procured the species in a hazel copse below Hampton Rocks.

Sedgefield, September 20, 1860.

NOTICE OF EMBLETONIA PALLIDA, OF A NEW HYDROZOON, AND A NEW INFUSORIUM.

BY W. A. SANFORD, ESQ., F.G.S.

Embletonia hyalina, *(Alder and Hancock)*, maculis purpurescentibus, lobis capitis velo unitis, tentaculis longis, approximantibus, branchiis quatriserialibus, elipticis, flavis, apicibus albis.

Habitat—on *Laodomea gelatinosa*, at low-water mark at St. Audries, on the Bristol Channel,—W. A. S., 1860. On the site of the docks, Birkenhead,—Mr. Price, 1854. (Extinct in the latter locality.)

AT St. Audries, to the west of the road which Sir P. Acland has made from the farm house to the beach, there is a ledge of lias which runs out to the north from the cliff, and forms a barrier, which encloses at low water a large pond of sea water between it and the cliff. Small streams trickle from the pond down the face of the ledge, which form little deep pools, the sides of which are covered with multitudes of Zoophytes of the common shore-kinds, Laodomeæ, Sertulariæ, and two or three species of Coryne. Among them a new species of *Clavula (Clavula*

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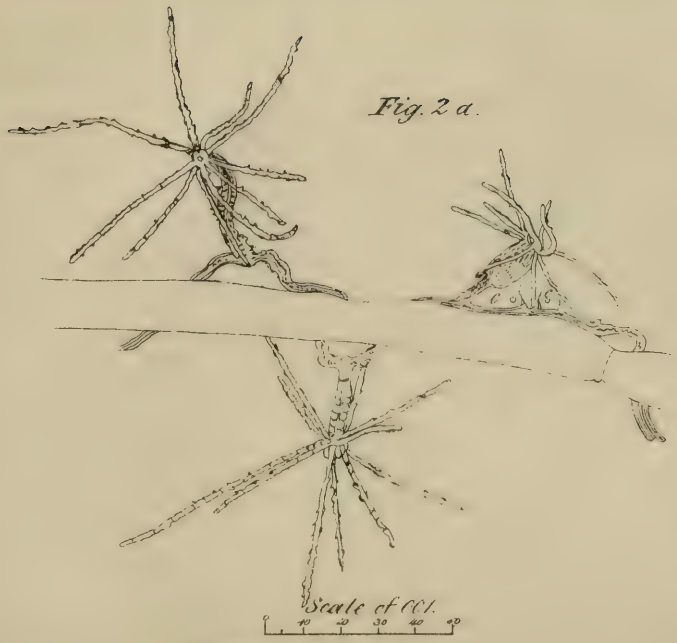
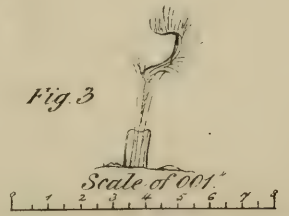


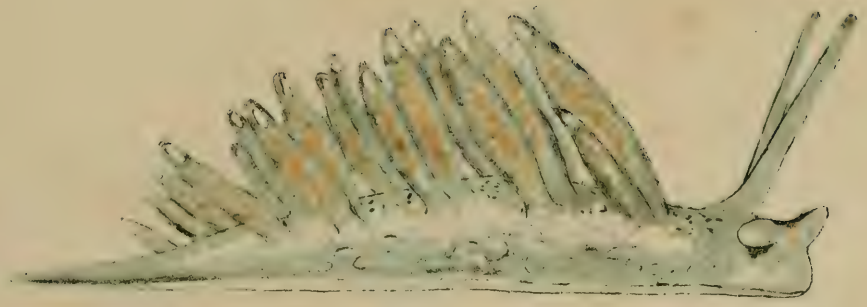
Clavula Sp.t Ethelridae.



Infusorium referred to in text (c.c. in fig 2 a. enlarged)

Drawn from life by W.A.S.

Ford Vith. Taunton.



EMBLETONIA PALLIDA.
(St Audries.)

Drawn from life by W.A.S.

Ford. lith. Taunton

St. Ethelridæ), distinguished from *Clavula Gossii* (Dr. Wright) by the sub-uniserial position of the tentacles, and by its greater size and robustness, (fig. 2, *a* and *b*.)

Feeding on these I found numerous specimens of the singular mollusk of which I believe that I now give the first published figure—*Embletonia hyalina*, (fig. 1.) It was originally discovered by Mr. Price on the present site of the Birkenhead docks, in 1854; but when the docks were finished, the site was destroyed, and the animal has not been since met with.

It feeds principally on *Laodomea gelatinosa*, neglecting other zoophytes while any of that remains. It lays its eggs in small reniform masses, with but few eggs in each mass. It appears to be hardy in confinement, some of the specimens having lived eight or ten weeks in jars of sea water, but they are sluggish in their movements, and were generally to be found on the same stone for days together. It is distinguished from the other British species of the genus by the double row of papillæ on each side, and also by the colour, which in *E. pulchra* and *minuta* is red, whereas in this animal it is of so light a blue that it only gives a slight opacity to the animal, the tentacles alone being of a pale yellow; and also by the form of the lobes of the head, which are in this species united into a semicircular veil, but in *pulchra* and *minuta* they form a crescent with blunt horns pointing rather forwards.

Casual observers might mistake *Eolis (Tergipes) exigua* or *despecta* for this animal, but both of these have four tentacles instead of two, and the colouring, although somewhat similar, is very different on close examination.

In the same pools I found an *Infusorium*, different from any I have been able to obtain a description of. I give a slight sketch of it (fig. 3), in order that if recognised by

others it may be examined with a view to determine its real character. It has exactly the habits of Lagotis, but is far smaller, not being above a quarter of the size of the smallest species of that genus. It lives in a small tube on the surface of zoophytes and algæ, from which it slowly protrudes a single spiral ciliated lobe, resembling that of *Chætospira* (Lachmann). It may belong to this genus, but I have never been able to isolate the tube in which it lives, and consequently cannot say what relation it bears to that animal. The habits and general appearance are so like those of Lagotis, that I should say that it was closely related to that genus.

On new Brachiopoda, and on the Development of the Loop in Terebratella.

BY MR. CHARLES MOORE, F.G.S.

AT the time of the commencement of Mr. Davidson's monograph on British Brachiopoda, published by the Palæontographical Society, little had been done towards their systematic arrangement and classification. Sowerby had figured many species; but valuable materials were accumulated, and many new forms waiting for description in the cabinets of different collectors, which have since been done justice to in the above valuable publication.

At the time referred to but fourteen species of the genera Lingula, Orbicula, Spirifer, and Terebratula had been figured from the three divisions of the Lias, but I had succeeded in discovering twenty new species in the Middle and Upper Lias of Somerset, including the genera Thecidæum, Leptæna, and Crania, genera which had been previously unnoticed in these formations.

Of the genus Thecidæum, the Middle Lias of Somerset yielded me three species, viz., *T. Bouchardii*, *T. triangularis*, and *T. Moorei*. In this formation they are rare, and when found are almost invariably attached to the plicated

exteriors of *Rhynchonella serrata* or *R. tetraëdra*. On a specimen of the former shell, which has been figured by Mr. Davidson, there are seventeen examples belonging to the three species I have mentioned.

The Upper Lias of the west of England, especially in the neighbourhood of Ilminster, rarely exceeds in thickness ten or twelve feet, and is sometimes reduced to four or five feet. In the clays at its base the genus Leptæna occurs of several species. About the time of their discovery, one species, the *Leptæna liasiana*, had been found in France, which I had sought for in vain in this country. During a visit paid me by Mr. Davidson, as we were approaching a section of Upper Lias, he remarked how interesting it would be to find the French species in association with those I had already discovered. To our great delight the first object that presented itself to me was a little shell, which rendered the *L. liasiana* a British species. I have never found more than four specimens, so that it is very rare.

Before the publication of Mr. Davidson's "Appendix," in 1853, I had examined the Inferior Oolite of Dundry for Brachiopoda, and found there eight species of Thecideum, five of which were new, together with the *T. Bouchardii* and *T. triangularis* I had previously obtained from the Middle Lias, and *T. Deslongchampsii* of the Upper Lias. The same locality also furnished me with a series of little shells, which threw light upon some I had previously found in the Upper Lias, forming a passage between the Thecideidæ and the Terebratulidæ, for which the sub-genus Zellania has been created. These, with a little shell named *Spirifera oolitica*, were shortly noticed by me in Mr. Davidson's "Appendix," and were, in 1854, figured in the *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archæological and*

Natural History Society. At that time I was convinced many new species might be expected to be discovered from a continued investigation of the secondary formations, and below I am enabled to give figures and descriptions of sixteen additional species, whereby our knowledge of this interesting class of shells is completed to the present time.

On Hampton Down, near Bath, there are extensive excavations where the Great Oolite was formerly largely worked. Latterly a new quarry has been commenced, and in order to reach the workable beds of freestone, the following beds in descending order had to be passed through :—

	Ft.	In.
1. Thin bands of freestone	4	6
2. Brown raggy coralline bed ..	9	0
3. Compact grey limestone	5	0
4. Workable beds of great oolite	20	0

The grey limestone, (No. 3) contains many organic remains, but owing to its hard and intractable character few are to be extracted entire. In its weathered edges may be seen the *Lima cardiformis*, *Trichites*, *Lithodomi*, and many corals.

The raggy bed (No. 2) is very incoherent, and appears to have been an ancient coral reef, it being in great part composed of corals and sponges. Intermingled with these branching corals are myriads of beautiful organisms, which, from the unconsolidated nature of the bed, are easily extracted. They consist of dismembered ossicles of star-fishes, the plates and occasionally the bodies of the Bradford Encrinite *(Apiocrinus Parkinsoni)*, spines and shells of Echini, Ostreæ, and other mollusca, and with them very many specimens of a small Brachiopod, which has

hitherto been considered the young of *Terebratula maxillata*, but which I shall presently show is to be referred to *Terebratella*.

The Brachiopods obtained at Hampton consist of *Terebratula cardium*, *T. coarctata*, *T. digona*, *T. hemispherica*, *T. maxillata*, *Rhynchonella concinna*, *R. obsoleta*, *Crania antiquior*. It will thus be seen that only three genera of Brachiopods have hitherto been known in the Great Oolite, and the bed under consideration. To these I have now to add four other genera, viz., Terebratella, Terebratulina, Thecidium, and Zellania.

Terebratula maxillata, Sow.

Pl. I., figs. 6, 7.

The adult form of this shell is found at Hampton, though usually either in single valves, or in a crushed state. The young ages of this shell are externally hardly distinguishable from the *Terebratella Buckmanii*, described below. It differs from the latter shell in its beak being more truncated, and the foramen more rounded; it is also usually longer than broad, a character it looses when more adult. Internally the generic difference is at once apparent, as this shell possesses a short reflected loop, which in Terebratella is doubly attached.

Terebratula hemisphærica, Sow.

A pretty little shell, originally figured by Sowerby under the name of *Terebratula hemisphærica*, is not uncommon at Hampton Cliffs. This was subsequently removed by D'Orbigny from that genus, and placed with the Terebratellæ; and on the authority of the species to which I now refer, that author carried the latter genus into the oolites, in which he was followed, although with some

hesitation, by Mr. Davidson. It will be seen from what follows that two species at least of Terebratella are to be found in these beds; but when D'Orbigny placed the *Terebratula hemisphærica* in this genus, he could not have seen its interior, which, in several examples I possess, have the short and simple loop of Terebratula, and the shell in question will therefore have to return to its original position.

TEREBRATELLA.

Terebratella Buckmanii, Woodward M.S.

Pl. I., figs. 1–5.

Shell generally a little longer than wide, rounded in front, and tapering to the beak; valves moderately convex; beak short, very slightly incurved and truncated by a foramen, surrounded in part by the extremity of the beak, the umbo of the dorsal valve, and two small labral deltideal plates. Internally the adult shell is provided with a doubly attached loop, the first pair of lamellæ extending considerably before becoming reflected to form the loop. Shell structure punctuate. Dimensions of the largest example hitherto observed: length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ lines; width, 3 lines; depth, $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines.

Obs.—I had collected a considerable number of these little brachiopods from the oolite of Hampton Cliffs, under the idea that they were the young of *Terebratula maxillata*, my object being to prepare dissections shewing the loop of that species. I was much interested in finding in the example I first opened that it could not belong to the young of that genus, although outwardly it is almost undistinguishable from it. The difference in the loop proved it to be a true Terebratella. My observation does not shew that it attained larger dimensions than those

mentioned, but it had then assumed the character and development peculiar to the loop which characterizes the genus to which it is referred. In an early stage of my examination, modifications in the shape of the loop were noticed, and observations extending to several hundred specimens resulted in showing the curious changes effected by age in the form of the loop, which may be seen by referring to plate I., figs. 2, 3, 4, and 5.

The first stage of development I have been able to observe is sketched in fig. 2. Therein it may be perceived the two first lamellæ are united to the hinge-plate, and to a free rudimentary mesial plate, which is, in fact, the first origin of what at a later period becomes a mesial plate. In this state it is free, and does not touch the bottom of the valve, although when viewed in profile spines may be seen passing downwards, which afterwards join the mesial septum.

The loop has not yet been formed, but a plate projects between the lamellæ, and appears as if longitudinally split to a certain depth in the centre.

The second stage is exhibited in fig. 3. In this we find the two lamellæ with the rudimentary plate as in fig. 2, and, besides, the origin of the reflected portion of the loop, presenting in this first stage of its development but a very small and rudimentary aspect.

The third stage may be observed in fig. 4, where the different parts are still more developed, but the mesial plate has not yet reached the bottom of the valve.

By gradual changes we are thus conducted to the fourth stage, fig. 5, where the loop has attained its complete development. The central plate, which was freely suspended in the shell before, has now reached and become soldered to the bottom of the valve; the first pair of

lamellæ are still attached to its upper sides, and the reflected portion of the loop has become fully developed, the extremities facing the front of the shell being considerably prolonged, as is seen in fig. 5 of our plate. Numerous long spines also project from the outer edges of the lamellæ and loop, giving to the interior a very peculiar appearance.

The subject of the development of the internal calcified supports in brachiopoda is of considerable interest, and much may yet be learnt by a careful study of recent specimens of this class. The importance of attention to the subject is the greater when it is remembered that the classification of many of the brachiopoda depends more upon internal than external form, and that had the different stages of development shown by the *Terebratella Buckmanii* been observed under other circumstances, or from beds of different geological ages, each would probably have been constituted a distinct genus.

The *Terebratella Buckmanii* is the prevailing shell at Hampton Cliffs, and many hundred specimens have passed through my hands. It has before been remarked that the young of *Terebratula maxillata* also occur at Hampton, though this species is comparatively rare. It requires considerable experience to determine by the exterior to which genus the different shells belong. Both possess the same contour, and are strongly punctuate. In general, however, the *Terebratella Buckmanii* may be distinguished by a dark longitudinal line in the centre of the ventral valve, due to the mesial septum, and by the characters previously noticed when speaking of *Terebratula maxillata*.

It is due to my friend Mr. Woodward I should remark, that whilst my investigations on this shell were in progress, having been the means of conveying a series of them to him, he noticed it to be a Terebratella; and in a communi-

cation to Mr. Davidson suggested the specific name of *Terebratella Buckmanii* for it, which I have much pleasure in adopting.

TEREBRATELLA FURCATA, Sow. and Moore.

Pl. I., figs. 8–10.

Terebratula furcata, Sow.; *T. orbicularis*, Sow.; *T. cardium*, Lamarck.

Shell small, rounded—both valves moderately convex; valves coarsely plicated, varying in number, and may be seen on the inner side, bifurcating occasionally; surface punctuated; beak truncated; foramen large; loop doubly attached.

This little shell was originally figured by Sowerby under the name of *Terebratula furcata*, but subsequently he considered it might be the young of *Terebratula orbicularis*, Sow., the *Terebratula cardium* of Lamark, in which he was followed by other naturalists. The *T. cardium* is found at Hampton Cliffs, in association with this species, and from the close resemblance it bears to it, might reasonably be considered its young form. Having succeeded in opening a beautiful example showing the interior of the shell, the double attachment of the loop proved it to be a Terebratella. The interiors may be seen by referring to pl. I., figs. 9, 10. The profile shows the upper lamellæ of the loop, after leaving the hinge plate, to be possessed of a pair of crural spurs. About the centre of the shell the lamellæ are attached to an elevated mesial septum. The front of the loop, as well as the reflected portion, is broad; and projecting towards the opening of the shell, and on the under side of the lamellæ, are a number of closely set spines. This shell is very rare at Hampton, owing to which I have been unable to make any observations on

the development of the loop as in *Terebratella Buckmanii*. The fact of the shell under consideration proving to be a Terebratella at once suggested the possibility that *Terebratula cardium* might also belong to that genus; and I learnt from Mr. Davidson that he could not speak positively on this point, as the shell from which his interior was figured was not clear of the matrix, and only partially exhibited the loop. I have taken much trouble to establish the correct position of the *T. cardium;* and after the examination and dissection of many specimens, am able to say that the loop, as figured by Mr. Davidson, is correct. This species must therefore remain in its present position, but the examples supposed to be its young forms will have to be placed under Terebratella; and, retaining Sowerby's original specific name, must be called *Terebratella furcata*. Two species of this genus are therefore added to British Jurassic beds, and the *Terebratula hemisphærica*, which was supposed to represent it in this age, removed. I have obtained a portion of the interior of a small brachiopod, showing a mesial septum, from the Upper Lias, near Ilminster, which convinces me that the genus may also be found in that formation.

TEREBRATULINA.

Terebratulina radiata, Moore.

Pl. I., figs. 11–14.

Shell small, nearly as broad as long; thickest near the umbo, and thinning gradually to the front and sides; front rounded; valves convex, flattened, with numerous fine striations; foramen large, rounded; area flattened; the exterior of the ventral valve shows a mesial depression, with a corresponding elevation in the interior of the valve.

The loop is short; after passing the crura it forms a semicircular ring, slightly thickening in its centre.

This little shell is not uncommon in the Oolite of Hampton Cliffs, and is the first Terebratulina recorded in British Jurassic beds. In its external form it is not unlike *Terebratulina subradiata*, but it does not, in any example I have seen, attain one-tenth the size of that species. It is also more circular, less convex, and has a more pronounced sinus in the ventral valve than that shell.*

The *T. radiata* appears to have continued upwards from the Inferior Oolite, as I am unable to separate from it some specimens I have obtained from Dundry, near Bristol, the only distinction being that the latter assume a more elongated form, which is to be observed by comparing pl. I., fig. 14 (from Dundry) with figs. 11, 12 (from Hampton Cliffs).

ZELLANIA, Moore—1854.

Three species of this genus were described by me in the *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society*, for 1854; one being from the Upper Lias, the other from the Inferior Oolite of Dundry. To these I have to add another from Dundry, and a fifth species from the Oolite of Hampton Cliffs. The genus also occurs in the Coral Rag of Lyneham, Wilts. Its range is therefore shown to extend from the Upper Lias to the uppermost beds of the Oolite.

ZELLANIA GLOBATA, Moore.

Pl. I., figs. 15–17.

Shell very small, globose; valves moderately convex,

* In all the examples that have come under my notice, the crural processes, which are usually joined in this genus, are disconnected.

rounded at sides and front; exterior surface smooth; beak slightly projecting; foramen encroaching on both valves, rounded.

Obs.—I have five examples of this shell from the Oolite of Hampton. The interior of the dorsal valve possesses a well defined circular ridge, entirely encircling the inner portion of the shell. In this species I have been unable to observe any trace of a central septum, which in those previously figured is well defined. The examples that occur in the Coral Rag, at Lyneham, are of the same species, and are equally rare.

ZELLANIA OOLITICA, Moore.

Pl. I., figs. 18–20.

Shell small, triangular, rather longer than wide; front rounded; valves tapering to the beak, smooth, distinctly punctuate, thickest at the umbo; sides thick, flattened; hinge-line very short; foramen rounded.

This species is found with the *Z. Davidsonii* and *Z. Laboucherei*. It is a thicker and more triangular shell than the former, and is devoid of the striæ noticed on that shell. In its triangular and less symmetrical form it is to be distinguished from *Z. Laboucherei;* and it also wants the concentric lines on the valves characteristic of that species. The shell structure of the genus is shown by the *Z. oolitica* to be distinctly punctuate.

Under the microscope the shell shows a number of widely-separated, circular punctuations, which are arranged in longitudinal lines.

LEPTÆNA DAVIDSONII, Eug. Deslongchamps.

Pl. I., figs. 21, 22.

The figures representing the above species are taken

from specimens for which I am indebted to M. Eugene Deslongchamps, of Caen. They were found in the Upper Lias of May, associated with several of the species found in this country. It appears to be abundant in France, and to attain larger dimensions than any other liassic Leptæna.

I have found a single dorsal valve of this species in the Upper Lias of Ilminster, which though not in good condition, sufficiently identifies the *Leptæna Davidsonii* as a British species.

THECIDEUM, Defrance.

THECIDEUM ORNATUM, Moore.

Pl. II., figs. 1–3.

Shell inequivalve; punctuate, rather rugose, front deep, rounded; attached by a considerable portion of the ventral valve; beak slightly incurved; deltidium small and depressed. The ventral valve is flattened on its under side. Its interior is surrounded by an elevated, slightly granulated margin. Under the deltidium are seen two raised oval processes, separated by a longitudinal septum, which occupies the greater length of the shell. The exterior of the dorsal valve is rugose and flattened. The interior possesses a narrow, thin, punctuated margin, immediately succeeding which is a ridge of single granulations, which are stronger towards the frontal margin, gradually disappearing as the ridge passes upwards. Springing from the centre of this granulated ridge is a septum, slightly tapering from its base, on either side strongly serrated, between which is a central longitudinal groove. The septum occupies nearly the whole height allowed by the cavity of the shell, and divides it to nearly three-fourths of its length. From the top of the septum there are thrown off two extremely delicate lamellæ, forming a loop which curves

downwards towards the front of the shell, where they bifurcate, and are then again united to the shell at its inner sides. Above the septum and attached lamellæ a band occurs, forming a bridge over the visceral cavity. This is united to the granulated ridge, which thus completely surrounds the inner portion of the valve.

Obs.—The preservation of the loop as shown in the enlarged fig. 3, pl. II., is remarkable, since in the original specimen it is in substance scarcely thicker than the finest unspun silk, and extremely brittle. The interiors of the Brachiopoda are only to be developed by careful manipulation in dissecting or opening up the valves. Many of the interiors of the Thecididæ are very beautiful; but I have never yet seen any species equalling in delicacy of structure that under consideration. It is from the Coral Rag of Lyneham, Wilts, where it is not uncommon.

THECIDEUM PYGMÆUM, Moore.

Pl. II., figs. 4–7.

Shell microscopic, longitudinally oval; both valves convex; attached to other bodies at the upper part of the ventral valve; beak slightly produced; area short; deltidium ill defined. A thin raised ridge passes round the front and sides of the dorsal valve, until it reaches the dental sockets. It is without a central septum, nearly always present in other species, the only ornamentation within the ridge being numerous punctuations.

Obs.—This shell is very numerous in the Coral Rag of Lyneham, associated with the *T. ornatum* and the *T. triangularis*. I have been unable to trace any passage into either of the above species, otherwise it might have been considered a young stage of one of them. As it is altogether different in character, and as the shell, though so

minute, is very persistent in its form, I have ventured to give it the above specific designation.

THECIDEUM TRIANGULARE, D'Orbigny.

This species has hitherto been noticed only in the Middle and Upper Lias, and the Inferior Oolite. I have now obtained it from the Lower Lias of Keynsham, which is the oldest formation in which it has yet been found. It then passes through the beds above mentioned, and is very common—attached to Lima, Ostrea, and other shells—in the Fuller's Earth of Combehay, near Bath. It occurs also in the coralline bed of Hampton Cliffs, and again in the still higher zone of the Coral Rag of Lyneham. No other species of Brachiopod has yet been known to have attained so long a range as is indicated by the above facts. Its uninterrupted passage through so many formations points out the absence of any considerable climatal or other changes during the deposition of the beds in which it is found.

I have evidence of the presence of several other species in the Inferior Oolite of Dundry, one very nearly approaching the *T. Deslongchampsii*, Dav.; but as only separate valves have been found, it will be unsafe at present to say more respecting them.

CRANIA, Retzius.

CRANIA CANALIS, Moore.

Pl. II., figs. 8–10.

Shell subquadrate, usually flattened, at other times more or less conical. The outer surface of the young shell exhibits a few coarse striæ, which continue to the margin of the valve. In the adult these become much more numerous, many of them passing as narrow spines, some

distance beyond the outer margin of the shell. The interior of the valve is concave, showing two pairs of muscular impressions, not strongly marked; the anterior pair curving upwards towards the posterior, which are rounded and larger. When viewed from the inner side the valve is seen to be surrounded by a flattened ridge, which is continued outwards in long spinose expansions, which are furnished with narrow longitudinal grooves, or canals, through the whole of their length.

Obs.—This is one of the most beautiful species of this interesting genus of shells. It is from the raggy beds of the Inferior Oolite of Dundry, which have furnished me with so many new forms of Brachiopoda. The upper valve only is known.

CRANIA SANDERSII, Moore.

Pl. II., figs. 11, 12.

Shell rounded; exterior of the valve flattened, or slightly convex; surface wrinkled; shell-structure smooth. The interior of the valve shows four muscular impressions; the upper pair being rounded and depressed, the anterior, occupying the middle of the valve, are raised and prominent, ear-shaped, and curved outwardly.

Obs.—By its exterior it would be difficult to distinguish this shell from the *C. antiquior* of the Great Oolite of Hampton Cliffs, but the interior of the valves differ. In the *C. Sandersii* the two pairs of muscular impressions are more widely separated, the lower pair being much stronger, and in shape different from those of the *C. antiquior*, and there is also the absence beneath them of a longitudinal ridge usually present in the latter shell.

It is from the Inferior Oolite of Dundry, near Bristol. I have much pleasure in naming it after Wm. Sanders,

Esq., of Clifton, to whom the Museum of the Bristol Philosophical Institution is so much indebted. The shell also occurs in the Inferior Oolite of Minchinhampton, Gloucestershire.

Crania Ponsortii, Eug. Deslongchamps.

Pl. II., figs. 9, 10.

The shell described under the above specific name was found by M. Deslongchamps in the Great Oolite of St. Aubin. It occurs in the coralline beds of Hampton Cliffs, and with it the *Crania antiquior* of Jelly is found in great numbers. The outer surface of the latter shell is characterized by possessing a somewhat rugose or wrinkled surface, and the interior by its well defined muscular impressions, which always occupy the same position in the species, and give pretty uniformly the same pattern to the interior. The interior of *C. Ponsortii* appears to be undistinguishable from it, the chief difference being in their outer surfaces. This, in the *C. Ponsortii*, possesses plications which give it a slightly spinose aspect. After examining many examples of the *C. antiquior*, I have observed in some of them a tendency to become more rugose, and to pass gradually into the form represented by the above shell, and I am therefore disposed to consider it only a variety of *C. antiquior*.

DISCINA, Lamarck.

Discina Dundriensis, Moore.

Pl. II., fig. 15.

Shell small, thick, broader than long, flattened, apex smooth, elevated, exterior showing narrow bands of con-

centric lines of growth which are slightly plicated, giving to the shell a wrinkled surface.

It is from the Inferior Oolite of Dundry, and is the only species known in that formation. It appears to be rare; for after a lengthened examination of these beds, I have only succeeded in obtaining three specimens.

Discina orbicularis, Moore.

Pl. II., figs. 16–18.

Shell small, orbicular, tapering to an elevated apex, giving the shell a somewhat conical form; margin smooth and rounded. Outer surface of valve smooth, with numerous concentric lines of growth; the inner smooth, and very concave.

Obs.—This shell does not appear to have attained a larger size than is indicated in pl. II., fig. 18. It is from the fish-bed and the clays associated therewith in the Upper Lias of Ilminster. By its form it is readily distinguished from any other species.

Discina Townshendii, Forbes.

A very fine specimen of this shell, belonging to the Museum of Economic Geology, was figured by Mr. Davidson in the volume of the Palæontographical Society for 1850. Its locality was then uncertain, though Mr. Davidson was informed it was from the Oxford Clay. Subsequently it was suspected to be from one of the lower beds of the Lias. Having discovered the species in the "Avicula contorta zone" at the base of the Lias, near Taunton, I am enabled to settle its position. M. Edward Suess, of Vienna, has informed me that he has also obtained the shell in the Rhætic beds of Austria, in which the "Avicula contorta zone" is included.

Discina Humphreysiana, Sowerby.

This species has hitherto been found only in the Kimmeridge Clay. It may be desirable to record its presence in the Coral Rag of Lyneham, where it is abundant.

Rhynchonella spinosa, Schlotheim.

In the Cotteswold and other lower oolites this shell has been supposed to indicate a particular zone. Although it is therein especially abundant, it is by no means confined to it. I have obtained the species from the Fuller's Earth, near Bath, and also in the Bradford Clay. Some very dwarfed or young forms of it are to be found in the upper beds of the Inferior Oolite of Dundry.

Terebratula carinata, Lamarck.

This shell has hitherto been found only in the Inferior Oolite. Some specimens smaller than the type-form are to be found in the coralline bed of Hampton Cliffs, which I am unable to distinguish from this species.

In addition to the Brachiopoda noticed in this paper, I am possessed of various minute specimens, which differ from any described species. Some of these may be the young of Brachiopoda that occur in the beds in which they are found; but until their passages into adult shells can be satisfactorily recognised, it will be undesirable to figure or describe them. Three examples of well marked and persistent forms are provisionally named and given below.

Spirifera minima, Moore.

Pl. II., figs. 19, 20.

Shell microscopic, often one sided and unsymmetrical,

slightly rugose; valves moderately convex; deltidium triangular; area broad and flattened; hinge-line broad; front of shell rounded. In some specimens the shell presents a uniformly flattened surface, whilst in the majority the outer surface of the smaller valve possesses mesial folds, and in the larger valve a central sinus.

Obs.—This shell is not uncommon in the Inferior Oolite of Dundry. Although no internal characters have yet been noticed, there seems little doubt the shell must be referred to the genus Spirifera. It is perfectly distinct from a little shell found with it, described by me in the *Proceedings of the Somersetshire Archæological and Natural History Society* for 1854. We have thus evidence of the presence of two species of this genus in oolitic strata, although in both instances they have become very degenerate in size. No larger specimens of the genus have yet been found in the same beds to which these diminutive shells can be referred.

Terebratula (?) minuta, Moore.

Pl. II., figs. 21, 22.

Shell very small, smooth, inequivalve, longitudinally oval, with large triangular deltidium; valves equally convex; hinge-line straight. The dorsal valve is usually square, and its inner side possesses a broad flattened septum nearly the length of the shell, and dividing it into two equal portions.

Obs.—I have been unable to determine the form of the loop of this shell, and until this has been seen it will be doubtful whether it be a true Terebratula. Should it be such it will be the smallest known species with which we are acquainted. It is from the coraline bed of Hampton Cliffs, Bath. It differs entirely from any other Terebratula

found in the great Oolite ; and although so small, appears to present the characters of an adult shell.

RHYNCHONELLA (?) CORONATA, Moore.

Pl. II., figs. 23–25.

Shell small, smooth, rounded ; ventral valve rather convex ; dorsal more flattened, and with a slight sinus ; beak produced, with a large triangular deltidium, bordered by a narrow area, from which spring two raised lateral ear-like processes, which again fold over upon the area. Under the above the valve possesses strongly marked hinge-teeth.

The shell is from the Upper Lias of Ilminster, whence I have nine examples. The lateral ear-like expansions give to it a very peculiar appearance. With some little doubt it is referred to Rhynchonella, though the shell-structure appears to agree most with that genus.

In addition to the foregoing new species, the observations recorded in this paper show that the vertical range of other previously known Brachiopoda has been extended beyond the zones to which they were supposed to be confined. My friend Mr. Davidson, to whose kind hints I have always been indebted in my study of the Brachiopoda, has shown the continuity of some species in the Carboniferous and Permian eras, a fact which has since been more fully noticed by Mr. J. W. Kirby, in the *Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society* for November last, and in the same number may be found the interesting conclusions arrived at by Messrs. Jones and Parker bearing on this point, and having reference to the extraordinary range of some of the Foraminifera.

The range of specific forms is a question to which the attention of palæontologists should be especially directed.

The following table gives a list of new genera and species I have within a few years been successful in adding to British Brachiopoda, all of which are from the secondary beds of Somersetshire, except the *Thecidæum ornatum* and *T. pygmæum*, which are from Wiltshire.

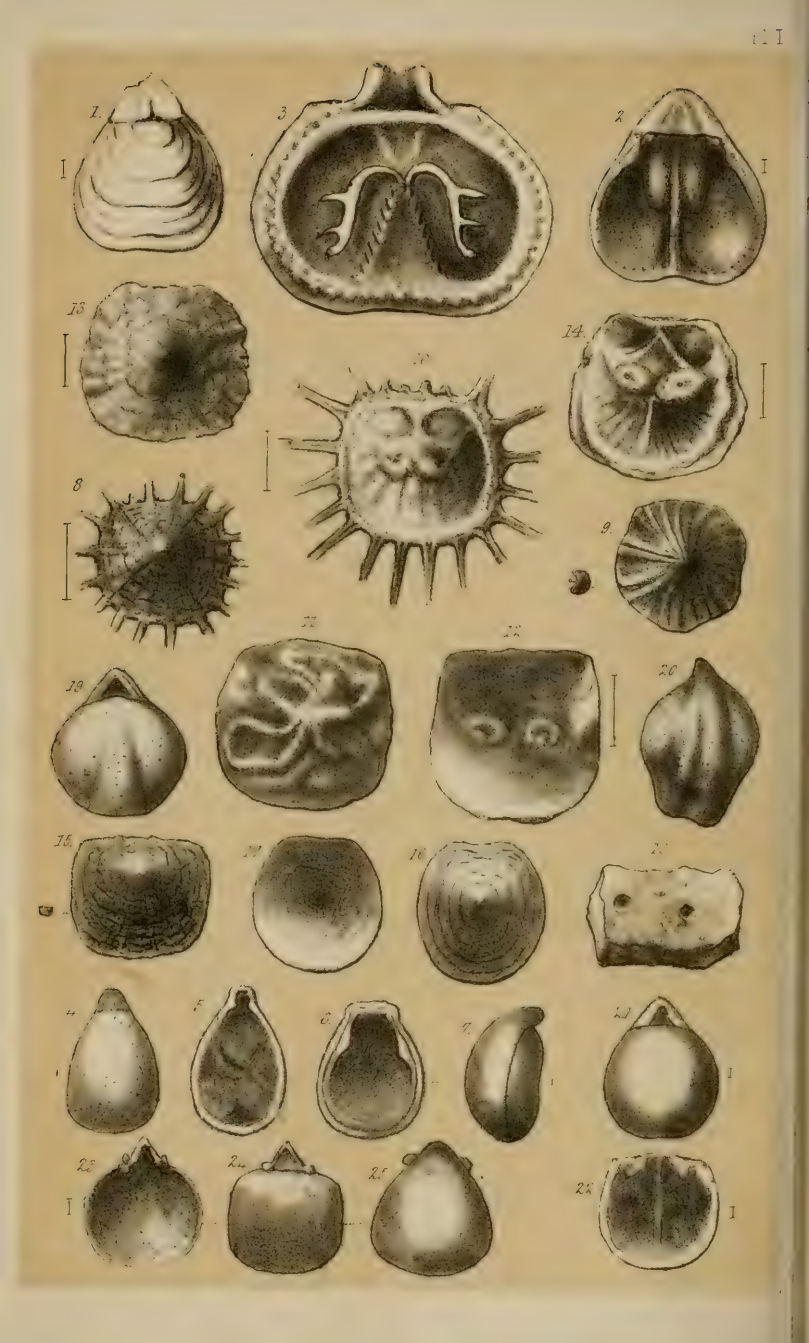
TABULAR VIEW OF ADDITIONS TO BRITISH SECONDARY BRACHIOPODA DISCOVERED BY THE AUTHOR, WITH THEIR STRATIGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.

Genera and Species.	Authority.	Lower Lias.	Middle Lias.	Upper Lias.	Inferior Oolite.	Fuller's Earth.	Great Oolite.	Bradford Clay.	Coral Rag.
CRANIADÆ.									
Crania canalis	Moore	..	..	..	*				
—— *Ponsortii (?)*	Deslongchamps	..	..	..	..	..	*		
—— *Moorei*	Davidson	..	..	*					
—— *Sandersii*	Moore	..	..	..	*				
DISCINIDÆ.									
Discina Dundriensis	Moore	..	..	..	*				
—— *orbicularis*	Moore	..	..	*					
STROPHOMENIDÆ.									
Leptæna Bouchardii	Davidson	..	..	*					
—— *Davidsonii*	Deslongchamps	..	..	*					
—— *granulosa*	Davidson	..	..	*					
—— *liasiana*	Bouchard	..	..	*					
—— *Moorei*	Davidson	..	..	*					
—— *Pearcei (?)*	Davidson	..	..	*					
RHYNCHONELLIDÆ.									
Rhynchonella Bouchardii	Davidson	..	..	*					
—— *coronata (?)*	Moore	..	..	*					
—— *Lopensis*	Moore	..	..	..	*				
—— *Moorei*	Davidson	..	..	*					
—— *sub-concinna*	Davidson	..	*						
—— *sub-tetrahedra*	Davidson	..	*						
SPIRIFERIDÆ.									
Spirifera Ilminsterensis	Davidson	..	..	*					
—— *minuta*	Moore	..	..	..	*				
—— *Munsterii*	Davidson	..	*	*					
—— *oolitica*	Moore	..	..	..	*				

Most of the species found in the Great Oolite occur also in this zone.

TABULAR VIEW OF ADDITIONS TO BRITISH SECONDARY BRACHIOPODA, Continued.

Genera and Species.	Authority.	Lower Lias.	Middle Lias.	Upper Lias.	Inferior Oolite.	Fuller's Earth.	Great Oolite.	Bradford Clay.	Coral Rag.
TEREBRATULIDÆ.									
Terebratula Edwardsii ..	Davidson	..	*						
——— *globulina*	Davidson	..	..	*					
——— *Lycettii*	Davidson	..	..	*					
——— *minuta (?)* ..	Moore.....	..	..	..	..	..	*		
——— *Moorei*.....	Davidson	..	*						
——— *pygmæa*	Davidson	..	..	*					
——— *sub-punctata*	Davidson	..	*						
Terebratulina radiata	Moore.....	..	..	..	*	..	*		
Terebratella Buckmanii ..	Woodward....	..	..	..	..	..	*		
——— *furcata*	Sow. & Moore	..	..	..	..	..	*		
THECIDIDÆ.									
Thecideum Bouchardii....	Davidson	..	*	*	*				
——— *Deslongchampsii*	Davidson	..	..	..	*				
——— *Dickinsonii*....	Moore.....	..	..	..	*				
——— *duplicatum*	Moore.....	..	..	..	*				
——— *Forbesii*	Moore.....	..	..	..	*				
——— *granulosum*	Moore.....	..	..	..	*				
——— *Moorei*.....	Davidson	..	*						
——— *ornatum*	Moore.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*
——— *pygmæum*	Moore.....	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	*
——— *rusticum*	Moore.....	..	..	*					
——— *serratum*	Moore.....	..	..	..	*				
——— *septatum*	Moore.....	..	..	..	*				
——— *triangulare*	D'Orbigny....	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Zellania Davidsonii	Moore.....	..	..	..	*				
——— *globata*:.....	Moore.....	..	..	..	..	..	*	*	*
——— *Labouchereï*.....	Moore.....	..	..	..	*				
——— *liasiana*	Moore.....	..	..	*					
——— *oolitica*.....	Moore.....	..	..	..	*				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EXPLANATION OF PLATE I.

Fig.

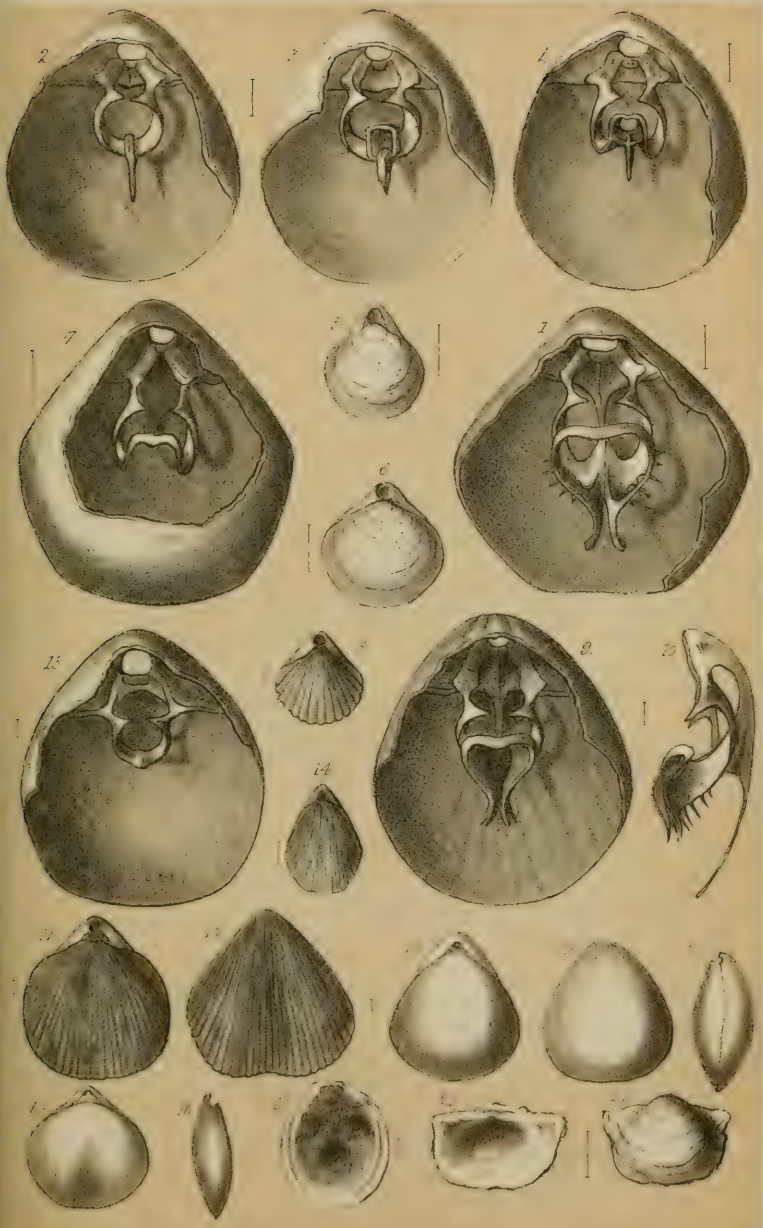
1. *Terebratella Buckmanii*, Woodward. Interior, showing the perfect loop.
2. ——— ———. Interior of shell much enlarged, showing the loop in its first stage.
3. ——— ———. Second stage of the loop, with a rudimentary reflected portion.
4. ——— ———. Third stage, with the reflected portion of the loop now developed.
5. ——— ———. Perfect shell, enlarged.
6. *Terebratula maxillata*, Sowerby. Young shell, enlarged.
7. ——— ———. Interior, exhibiting the loop.
8. *Terebratella furcata*, Sow. and Moore. Enlarged exterior.
9. ——— ———. Showing perfect loop.
10. ——— ———. Profile of ditto.
11. *Terebratulina radiata*, Moore. Perfect shell.
12. ——— ———. Exterior of ventral valve.
13. ——— ———. Interior, with loop.
14. ——— ———. Elongated variety, from Dundry.
15. *Zellania globata*, Moore. Much enlarged.
16. ——— ———. Side view of ditto.
17. ——— ———. Interior of dorsal valve.
18. *Zellania oolitica*, Moore. Perfect shell, much enlarged, showing punctuated structure.
19. ——— ———. Exterior of ventral valve.
20. ——— ———. Profile of shell.
21. *Leptæna Davidsonii*, Eug. Deslongchamps. Exterior, natural size.
22. ——— ———. Ventral valve, ditto.

The longitudinal lines indicate the sizes of the specimens, all of which are enlarged.

EXPLANATION OF PLATE II.

Fig.

1. *Thecideum ornatum*, Moore. Exterior of perfect shell enlarged.
2. ——— ———. Interior of ventral valve, showing raised oval processes and septum.
3. ——— ———. Interior of small valve, much enlarged, showing the serrated septum and the delicate loop for the support of the branchial membrane.
4. *Thecideum pygmæum*, Moore. Perfect shell much enlarged.
5. ——— ———. Interior of ventral valve.
6. ——— ———. Interior of dorsal valve, ditto.
7. ——— ———. Profile of perfect shell.
8. *Crania canalis*, Moore. Exterior of upper valve somewhat enlarged.
9. ——— ———. Young shell before possessing spinose expansions.
10. ——— ———. Enlarged restoration of interior of valve, showing the muscular impressions, and the grooved form of the spines.
11. *Crania Sandersii*, Moore. Exterior of shell.
12. ——— ———. Interior of valve, giving the position and form of the muscular impressions.
13. *Crania Ponsortii (?)*, Eug. Deslongchamps. Exterior of valve.
14. ——— ———. Interior of ditto.
15. *Discina Dundriensis*, Moore. Enlarged exterior of shell.
16. ——— *orbicularis*, Moore. Exterior of valve enlarged.
17. ——— ———. Interior of ditto.
18. ——— ———. Block, with specimens of natural size.
19. *Spirifera minima*, Moore. Perfect enlarged exterior.
20. ——— ———. Exterior of the ventral valve.
21. *Terebratula (?) minuta*, Moore. Perfect shell, enlarged exterior.
22. ——— ———. Interior of dorsal valve.
23. *Rhynchonella (?) coronata*, Moore. Enlarged dorsal aspect.
24. ——— ———. Interior, showing ventral aspect.
25. ——— ———. Exterior of ventral valve.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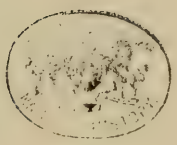

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The Wiltshire Archæological and Natural History Society.
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Rules.

I.—THIS Society shall be denominated "THE SOMERSETSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY;" and its object shall be the cultivation of, and collecting information on, Archæology and Natural History, in their various branches, but more particularly in connection with the County of Somerset.

II.—The Society shall consist of a Patron, elected for life; a President; Vice-Presidents; General, and District or Local Secretaries; and a Treasurer, elected at each Anniversary Meeting; with a Committee of twelve, six of whom shall go out annually by rotation, but may be re-elected. No person shall be elected on the Committee until he shall have been six months a member of the Society.

III.—Anniversary General Meetings shall be held for the purpose of electing the Officers, of receiving the Report of the Committee for the past year, and of transacting all other necessary business, at such time and place as the Committee shall appoint; of which Meetings three weeks' notice shall be given to the members.

IV.—There shall also be a General Meeting fixed by the Committee, for the purpose of receiving Reports, reading Papers, and transacting business. All members shall have the privilege of introducing one friend to the Anniversary and General Meetings.

V.—The Committee is empowered to call Special Meetings of the Society, upon receiving a requisition signed by ten members. Three weeks' notice of such Special Meeting, and its object, shall be given to each member.

VI.—The affairs of the Society shall be directed by the Committee, (of which the Officers of the Society shall be *ex-officio* members) which shall hold Monthly Meetings for receiving Reports from the Secretaries and sub-Committees, and for transacting other necessary business; five of the Committee shall be a quorum. Members may attend the Monthly Committee Meetings, after the official business has been transacted.

VII.—The Chairman, at Meetings of the Society, shall have a casting vote, in addition to his vote as a member.

VIII.—One (at least) of the Secretaries shall attend each Meeting, and shall keep a record of its proceedings. All Manuscripts and Communications, and the other property of the Society, shall be under the charge of the Secretaries.

IX.—Candidates for admission as members shall be proposed by two members at any of the General or Committee Meetings, and the election shall be determined by ballot at the next Committee or General Meeting; three-fourths of the members present balloting shall elect. The rules of the Society shall be subscribed by every person becoming a member.

X.—Ladies shall be eligible as members of the Society without ballot, being proposed by two members, and approved by the majority of the Meeting.

XI.—Each member shall pay ten shillings on admission to

the Society, and ten shillings as an annual subscription, which shall become due on the first of January in each year, and shall be paid in advance.

XII.—Donors of Ten Guineas or upwards shall be members for life.

XIII.—At General Meetings of the Society the Committee may recommend persons to be balloted for as Honorary or Corresponding Members.

XIV.—When any office shall become vacant, or any new appointment shall be requisite, the Committee shall have power to fill up the same; such appointments shall remain in force only till the next General Meeting, when they shall be either confirmed or annulled.

XV.—The Treasurer shall receive all Subscriptions and Donations made to the Society, and shall pay all accounts passed by the Committee; he shall keep a book of receipts and payments, which he shall produce whenever the Committee shall require it; the accounts shall be audited previously to the Anniversary Meeting by two Members of the Committee, chosen for that purpose; and an abstract of them shall be read at the Meeting.

XVI.—No change shall be made in the Laws of the Society except at a General or Special Meeting, at which twelve members at least shall be present. Of the proposed change a month's notice shall be given to the Secretaries, who shall communicate the same to each member three weeks before the Meeting.

XVII.—Papers read at Meetings of the Society, and considered by the Committee of sufficient interest for publication, shall be forwarded (with the author's consent) to such periodical as shall be determined by the Committee to be the best for the purpose, with a request that a number of such papers may be printed separately, for distribution to the Members of the Society, either gratuitously or for such payment as may be agreed on.

XVIII.—No religious or political discussions shall be permitted at Meetings of the Society.

XIX.—That any person contributing Books or Specimens to the Museum shall be at liberty to resume possession of them in

the event of the property of the Society ever being sold, or transferred to any other county. Also, persons shall have liberty to deposit Books or Specimens for a specific time only.

N.B.—One of the objects of the Society shall be to collect, by donation or purchase, a Library and Museum, more particularly illustrating the History (Natural, Civil, and Ecclesiastical) of the County of Somerset.

*** *It is requested that Contributions to the Museum or Library be sent to the Curator, at the Society's Rooms, Taunton.*

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